

Iraq adopts tougher stand

NICOSIA (AFP) — Iraq will refuse to accept long-term monitoring of its post-war arms programmes unless the U.N. embargo is lifted, Culture and Information Minister Hamed Yusuf Hammadi warned Wednesday. "The plan for long-term monitoring will be implemented in Iraq with the lifting of the embargo and not if they (sanctions) stay in place," the minister said, quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) monitored here. The head of the U.N. commission in charge of dismantling Iraq, Rolf Ekeus, is expected to submit a report to the U.N. Security Council on Oct. 10 announcing the establishment of long-term monitoring. Mr. Ekeus said earlier this month that Baghdad had been cooperating with efforts to establish monitoring, which Iraq agreed to late last year after having rejected the idea as an infringement of its sovereignty. Mr. Hammadi said Mr. Ekeus's report would place the Security Council at a "crossroads." It will have to choose between lifting U.N. resolutions ending the Gulf war or let itself get "dragged along by U.S. policy," he said. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein accused the United States on Tuesday of not wanting to lift U.N. sanctions against his country although most of the Security Council favoured such a move.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Volume 18 Number 5728

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29-30, 1994, RABI' ALTHANI 23-24, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Israel sends mixed signals of intentions on W. Bank settlement

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel said on Wednesday it regarded some Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank as part of the Jewish state and could go on building in them over Palestinian objections. Israel officials said on Monday that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who curbed Israeli construction in the occupied territories two years ago, had approved freeing up land for new housing at a Jewish settlement in the West Bank. That move — which drew immediate condemnation from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) — appeared aimed at tightening Israel's hold on a section of the West Bank directly across the border from where the Jewish state is only 11 kilometres wide. However, Mr. Rabin hedged Wednesday to "reconsider" his decision to

allow new settlement building, officials said. Mr. Rabin made the promise in a cabinet meeting after protests by Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni, said the official, quoted by AFP. Ms. Aloni told the cabinet the decision to allow new building contradicted government policy and the declaration of principles for Palestinian autonomy, the officials said. The PLO and the Arab League protested Tuesday after it was revealed that Aife Menashe would be allowed to double its population within three years. Government sources told Haaretz the decision was part of a policy to prevent Israel having to retreat to the greenline in "problematic areas" under any final peace agreement with the Palestinians. Aife Menashe is in the northwest of the West Bank

close to the Palestinian town of Kalkilyah and on the outskirts of Tel Aviv. "There are many seam settlements about which there will be discussion and argument with the Palestinian delegation," Mr. Ben-Eliezer said. "It is not sure that in those settlements today there is a demand or a high demand for housing units. But the moment there is a demand and a high demand for housing units, in my opinion, there is no reason to stop such a thing. "I want to tell you that this issue is clearly coordinated between us as the policy of the ministry of building and housing and the government and I don't see any ambiguity." He did not list settlements where building might eventually be permitted again. On taking office two years

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A unidentified 64-year-old Swedish passenger waiting ambulance by rescue workers early of the sunken M.S. Estonia is wheeled into a Wednesday (AFP photo)

800 feared dead in Estonian ferry disaster

TURKU, Finland (Agencies) — Rescuers fought rough seas and howling winds Wednesday to search for survivors of an Estonian ferry that capsized and sank with nearly 1,000 people aboard. More than 800 were missing and feared dead. About 60 to 126 people had been rescued from the 12 degree Celsius water hours after the ferry Estonia sank overnight in the Baltic Sea, Swedish and Finnish authorities said. They said rescue workers found bodies, but declined to say how many. Earlier, officials said at least 100 had been rescued, but an exact count was made difficult by the number of rescue workers involved. The sinking between Tallinn, Estonia, and the ship's destination, Stockholm, was one of the worst sea disasters in recent years. Estonian authorities said the ferry's final radio message just after midnight was: "We are sinking ... the engines have stopped."

Survivors said the Estonia turned on its side and 15 minutes later slid to the bottom of the sea. Many passengers were asleep and had little chance to take to lifeboats. The Swedish news agency TT quoted crew member Henrik Silaste as saying one of the loading ramps on the roll-on, roll-off vessel was not closed properly and water rushed in. "We saw that the ramp was not closed properly. There was something wrong. The outer ramp was closed but the inner door was not properly attached," he said. "Water was forcing its way through. There was so much water on the lower deck that it almost reached my knees." Mr. Silaste said the Estonia turned over soon afterwards. In 1987, the British car ferry Herald of Free Enterprise capsized and sank after leaving the Belgian port of Zeebrugge with one of its ramps open. Almost 190 passengers and crew died. An unofficial passenger list distributed by Finnish police showed that the Estonia was carrying 964 people, about 100 more than originally thought. Police coordinating rescue operations in Turku said the list had been forwarded to them by Estonian border police and should still be treated as provisional. Estonian officials said the ferry was carrying around 500 Swedes, 340 Estonians and other people from Finland, Norway, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Britain and Nigeria. At least 18 helicopters from Finland, Sweden and Denmark, a fixed-wing aircraft, and more than 10 ships combed the area where the ship sank about 35 kilometres from the Finnish island of Utoe. Many of those picked up

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Arafat welcomes Jordan's decision

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat welcomed Jordan's decision to give Palestinians control of religious affairs in the West Bank as "a good step," a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said on Wednesday. Mr. Arafat did not refer to the parallel decision by the Kingdom reasserting its resolve to continue to play its role in Arab East Jerusalem's Muslim holy places. "He was very satisfied with the last decision of King Hussein over religious affairs," PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) told Reuters after meeting Mr. Arafat in Tunis. "He said this was a good step from King Hussein." Mr. Arafat later left for Spain to discuss aid for the Palestinian self-rule areas. In Amman, the Council of Ministers on Tuesday decided to sever Jordan's links with the Islamic Awaqaf and religious affairs in the West Bank in line with its 1988 decision transferring legal and administrative powers there to the PLO. The Palestinians took over the running of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho under its 1993 self-rule deal with Israel and is negotiating to extend its limited authority to the rest of the West Bank. Mr. Arafat played down

the exclusion of East Jerusalem, which Israel has "annexed" but which Palestinians see as their future capital. "Arafat says that it will be possible to reach agreement with His Majesty King Hussein on the remaining (matter)," Abu Mazen said. Since 1950, Jordan has administered 950 mosques in the West Bank, including 180 in Jerusalem and its outskirts. It pays the salaries of 2,500 officials, including 1,000 in Jerusalem, responsible for looking after the sites. The role costs Jordan \$17 million annually, including \$5 million allocated for Jerusalem. In Amman, Minister of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi said Jordan was careful to reaffirm its historic role in the guardianship over the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem to forestall any tampering with them. Commenting on Jordan's decision Tuesday to sever links with all the Muslim sites in the West Bank with the exception of Jerusalem, the minister said that the Hashemites had always maintained their historic guardianship of the holy sites in the city through the Ministry of Awaqaf. "Ending the Hashemite role there could create a vacuum which the Israeli ministry of religions could fill

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Israel may announce pullout from Jordan

AMMAN (Agencies) — Israel may announce a withdrawal from Jordanian territory it has occupied since 1968 at a meeting in Washington next week, Western diplomats said here Wednesday. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was involved in discussions between Israeli and Jordanian officials this week aimed at finalising arrangements for the withdrawal, said the diplomats, quoted by the Agence France Presse (AFP). The Crown Prince is due to meet Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at the White House on Oct. 3. If Israel announced a withdrawal from occupied Jordanian territory at the meeting it would be an important breakthrough toward signing a peace treaty between the two neighbours, the diplomats said. His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed a joint declaration in Washington on July 25 pledging to work towards a peace treaty and ending their 46-year state of belligerency. According to AFP, diplomats said Crown Prince Hassan held talks with a senior Israeli official in Aqaba Monday, but Jordanian officials did not confirm the meeting. Jordan wants Israel to hand over 385 square kilometres along the border, which Britain traced in 1922 as the mandate power in Palestine. A senior Jordanian official told AFP Amman had asked Israel "to withdraw as soon as possible from the territories it occupied in 1968 ... without waiting for an accord on border demarcation, which could still take several months." He said Jordan "will not sign any accord with Israel until the withdrawal has been carried out." The Jerusalem Post reported that a senior Israeli security official, who has been involved in behind-the-scenes contacts with Jordan, is now holding quiet top-level talks in a bid to bridge differences on water and border demarcation issues. Information Minister Jawad Anani said this week that when these issues and security concerns are resolved satisfactorily, Jordan would be willing to sign a peace treaty. Speaking to the Middle East Policy Council in Washington on Monday, Dr. Anani was delivering a speech on behalf of the Crown Prince. Dr. Anani also suggested that a treaty would not be contingent upon similar treaties between Israel and other Arab countries. "Jordan is prepared to sign a peace treaty with Israel once the outstanding issues

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Bahraini team to visit Iraq

AMMAN (AP) — Two Bahraini lawyers will take part in an Arab meeting in Baghdad this weekend, the first delegation from Bahrain to visit Iraq since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. "Our visit to Baghdad is primarily aimed at expressing our solidarity with our Iraqi brethren who are suffering under the international sanctions," Ali Ayyoubi, head of Bahrain's Bar Association, said Wednesday. Mr. Ayyoubi, who arrived in Jordan earlier Wednesday, said: "We also intend to discuss ways to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people resulting from these sanctions."

Mexican ruling party chief shot dead

MEXICO CITY (AFP) — The secretary general of Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) was assassinated Wednesday outside a Mexico City hotel, radio station said, citing the victim's brother, Francisco Ruiz Massieu, 48, died at the Spanish Hospital where he had been rushed after being shot in the neck as he got into his car outside the hotel, Radio Red said, quoting his brother Mario Ruiz Massieu. The PRI official had less than half an hour after being shot, the brother said. The assailant was detained, Mexico City Mayor Manuel Aguilar said. The authorities refused to reveal his identity.

Israeli delegation leaves for Bahrain

CAIRO (AFP) — An Israeli delegation left here Wednesday for Bahrain to prepare for the first visit to the Gulf state by an Israeli minister in 10 months. Israeli embassy spokesman Yaacov Setti said Environment Minister Yossi Sarid would visit Bahrain for a meeting on Oct. 24 and 25 if the multilateral environment committee set up within the framework of the Middle East peace process. The delegation would "make the necessary arrangements" for the meeting, Mr. Setti said.

Berber group cancels ultimatum

ALGIERS (AFP) — The political party with the most support among Algeria's ethnic Berbers on Wednesday cancelled its ultimatum to the kidnappers of Berber teenager Lounes Matoub. The Berber Cultural Movement (MCB) had set a 48-hour deadline for the kidnappers to release him unharmed or face "all-out war." The ultimatum expires on Wednesday at 0900 GMT.

Rabin 'threatens' to halt Syria talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned his Labour Party on Wednesday that he would halt talks with Syria unless he won a majority in parliament after a debate next week, Israel Radio reported. Half a dozen members of Knesset (MKs) have vowed to bring a bill before the house which would require 70 per cent support in parliament of any peace agreement with Syria. Mr. Rabin, who has offered Syria a "marginal" withdrawal from the Golan in return for peace, is due to open the winter session of the Knesset on Monday with a policy statement. He told the closed-door parliamentary party meeting that he would consider a vote against his policy statement as a censor motion. "In this case I could well announce a halt to the talks with Syria," the radio quoted him as saying. He reportedly insisted that Israel had not offered Damascus a full withdrawal from the Golan. Bilateral negotiations between Israel and Syria have not been held since the February 25 Hebron mosque massacre, but U.S. envoys have carried messages back and forth and reported slow

but steady progress. And secret talks have been held by experts from the two countries in Europe while their ambassadors meet discreetly in Washington. Under Mr. Rabin's proposal to Syria the size of the final withdrawal from the strategic plateau would be open to negotiation. A cabinet minister from Mr. Rabin's party said Tuesday that in exchange for peace with Syria, Israel must give back all of the Golan Heights. "If we can have real peace with the Syrians and the price is complete withdrawal, we have to agree because strategically, an Israel at peace with all of its neighbours is the most important thing," Tourism Minister Uzi Baram said on Israel TV. Mr. Baram was the first Labour minister to openly advocate a full withdrawal from the Golan. His comments heated domestic debate over the Golan which is emerging as the most divisive issue in Israel in recent years. In Gama, on the Golan Heights, some 500 Israelis joined for a day Wednesday a dozen settlers who have been on hunger strike for two weeks in a bid to prevent the

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Haitian parliament debates amnesty

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — The Haitian parliament convened here Wednesday to debate an amnesty law for military leaders who have vowed to step down and allow exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to return. The parliament was called into session by Speaker Firmin Jean-Louis, who had been unable to exercise his functions since February, when lawmakers hostile to Mr. Aristide and favourable to the military occupied his offices. The session opened with a roll-call, but it was not immediately known if a quorum had been reached to allow

the debate to go ahead. The parliament has been unable to reach a quorum for the last year as some 40 pro-Aristide lawmakers fled to the countryside and into exile fearing for their lives amid escalating military-sponsored violence. Hundreds of battle-ready U.S. troops blocked off all access to the white, plaster-walled parliament building in the downtown area adjacent to the U.S. embassy, as a raucous crowd gathered to watch the lawmakers arrive. The amnesty vote is a crucial next step in implementing the Sept. 18 Port-au-Prince agreement.

Talal Al Hassan meets Saudi and UAE counterparts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and his Saudi counterpart Saud Al Faisal met Wednesday in New York, in another step toward better ties between the two states, the Jordan News agency, Petra said. Petra said Mr. Hassan and Prince Saud, meeting on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, discussed the "means of bolstering bilateral relations." Mr. Hassan told Petra the meeting was "friendly, warm and good." The talks also covered "Arab issues and cases of mutual interest," he added. Jordanian officials have repeatedly called for better relations with Riyadh, which accused Amman of siding with Baghdad during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Jordan has denied the Gulf perception, saying it only wanted to avert a military solution to the crisis. Attending the meeting between the two ministers was Jordan's U.N. Ambassador Adnan Abu Odeh. Mr. Hassan later met with United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi for talks on enhancing bilateral relations, Petra said. The meeting was attended by Mr. Abu Odeh. Later Wednesday, Mr. Hassan was scheduled to meet with the foreign ministers of Bahrain and Iran.

2-day review exposes shortcomings, problems haunting Jordanian media

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A two-day in-depth view of the performance and status of the Jordanian media against the backdrop of the democratisation in the Kingdom concluded Wednesday after highlighting some of the glaring shortcomings of the press and electronic media in the Kingdom in terms of objectivity, quality and substance and what could be done to improve the situation. After reviewing the most visible problems that the Jordanian media face in general on Tuesday, the workshop shifted on Wednesday to the theme of the qualifications of Jordanian journalists, human resources, ethics of the media and the future of the fourth estate in the Kingdom.

The workshop, the first of its kind and scope held in Jordan, was widely described as a very good experience (if only because many could speak their minds and underline what they saw as the fundamental faults of the Jordanian media from within as well as outside). It was, however, marked by the conspicuous absence of senior management and editorial staff from most of the Jordanian newspapers. In general terms, the arguments heard at the seminar, organised by the Strategic Studies Centre of the University of Jordan in cooperation with the German Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung, included complaints against the 1993 Press and Publication Law, apathy and vested interests on the part of the decision-makers in the mainstream press, and lack of

professional training and the resulting problems as well as personal politics coming into play in the media. Also heard were arguments that the mainstream Jordanian press gave scant coverage to the opposition voice, and served, more often than not, as a means to convey the government's position. Particularly cited in this context was the coverage of the Middle East peace process in the three Arabic-language dailies, which, according to critics, only gave prominence to government statements and policies. During Wednesday's session, Ziad Rifai, a media consultant, said in a working paper the main problem while addressing human resources development in the media was the absence of clearly identified standards against which performances

could be measured and evaluated. Without the existence of professional responsibility and ethical standards, journalists could not be given real training, Dr. Rifai said. Dr. Rifai rated private sector journalists in Jordan on a higher level than those who work for the state-run radio and television, "where there is more of quantitative rather than qualitative training." He identified three forms of training in Jordan — on the job training, which is "very disorganised, haphazard and uninstitutionalised," academic training — a university degree in journalism and mass communication — "the result of which has been largely disappointing," and short-term fellowships and training

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U.S. wants U.N. out of Somalia by end of 1994

UNITED NATIONS (USIA) — The United States will push for the U.N. Security Council to end the 18,000-person U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) by Dec. 31, a U.S. official says.

As council talks began on Tuesday on the renewal of UNOSOM's mandate, a U.S. official discussed the Clinton administration's position on the fate of the massive operation which has been beset by problems, including attacks on the peacekeepers that have cost the lives of 36 Americans and 64 other soldiers.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said "the United States believes that the right course for the Security Council at this time is to terminate all UNOSOM II activities by Dec. 31, 1994."

"The world community has done an enormous job in helping to save hundreds of thousands of lives," he said. "We have endeavored to give the Somalis as much of a chance as is possible. But it is our conclusion at this point that the net benefit of trying to keep a large number of U.N. troops in a place where Somalis are not taking steps to reconcile... weighed against resources that the U.N. is applying to this problem require us to draw down UNOSOM activities."

Asked about a one-month extension, as has been suggested by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, the U.S. official said the United States feels that such an extension "is a mistake." The fear of the country sliding back into famine and all-out civil war should not be a factor in the decision, he added.

"The net cost of keeping this number of troops at risk... in a situation where their ability to change the dynamics in Somali society has shown no fruit, is worse than the marginal loss of security that would result from their departure," the official said.

"We still believe and I know this will be hard for you all to put in your stories, but we still believe Somalia — overall — was a success," he told journalists. "Hundreds

of thousands of people who are alive now would be dead. That shouldn't be forgotten even as we believe this is the time to draw down U.N. forces there."

The official said that ending UNOSOM in December 1994 would not be cutting short the mission even though the council originally set February 1995 as the final date for the U.N. peacekeeping presence in Somalia.

The February date, he said, was "a fictional date" based on the Somali factions following the timetable originally set out in the 1993 Addis Ababa peace agreement that called for a government of national reconciliation to be operative by March 1994. The U.N. mission was to help the new government establish itself and give rehabilitation and reconstruction support to the country.

Still under discussion, the U.S. official said, is the request by the United Nations for U.S. troops — which were pulled out earlier this year — to provide protection should the withdrawing UNOSOM forces come under attack from Somali clans.

In a written report to the council, Ghali characterised progress in achieving political reconciliation in Somalia as slow and coupled with "a progressive deterioration of the security situation." He said that if there is no significant progress on a national reconciliation conference, "the council will have to decide how much longer it wishes to maintain a force of at least 15,000 just to provide some degree of protection to humanitarian operations."

He suggested the council give UNOSOM a one-month extension when its mandate is due for renewal at the end of September in order to reassess the situation on the ground.

But Dr. Ghali also said that many troop-contributing countries "have conveyed to me in clear terms that they are not prepared to continue indefinitely their costly commitments, particularly when there are no encouraging signs of the Somali leaders' readiness to assume responsibility for the proper governance of their own country."

Kabul suffers fierce rocket barrage

At least seven rockets landed Tuesday in and around the Pakistani embassy in Kabul, one of the fiercest attacks on the foreign office since Wednesday, the Pakistani official said.

The Pakistani embassy in Kabul has frequently been in the firing line. On Sept. 13, a rocket landed close to the gates but caused no damage.

Meanwhile, Islamabad also expressed "grave concern" over the continued detention of four Pakistanis by the Afghan government.

The Foreign Office summoned the Afghan charge d'affaires and conveyed a note Tuesday requesting the "immediate release" of Nadeem Shahzad, Saeed Ahmad, Mohammad Aziz and Abdul Saleem.

Despite the anxiety of their families and requests to "arrange for their release no response had been received from Kabul," the foreign office said.

The Afghan diplomat, who was told that one of the detainees, Abd Saleem, was unwell, undertook to convey the message to the Kabul authorities, it said.

U.N. officials here Tuesday's attacks killed more than 40 guests at a wedding party when a rocket landed on a private house in the Qalai Fathullah district.



MAHATHIR IN TURKEY: Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller (right) and her Malaysian counterpart Mahathir Mohamad hold a press conference outside the Turkish government building in Ankara. Mr. Mahathir was on a two-day visit to Turkey (AFP photo)

Bouez lashes out at great powers

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Lebanon unleashed a searing attack Tuesday at the "club of the great and powerful" countries and what he called their U.N. double standard, especially with regard to the Middle East.

In an address to the U.N. General Assembly, Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez wondered aloud about the great dream of the United Nations, almost 50 years after it was founded.

"So where is the peace in this world torn apart by war?" he asked. "Where are we as far as settling conflicts goes, at the moment they start growing, violence starts getting worse, the law is violated, the sovereignty of peoples wrecked, with human rights, peoples and states trampled underfoot?"

"What has become of the resolutions passed by this very assembly that have never been enacted?" Mr. Bouez asked. "What becomes of resolutions' authority and their credibility? Why do we still have double standards?"

Assembly resolutions are non-binding, while the Security Council can adopt binding measures for the world body.

"You will pardon us for raising these questions," he said. "You will, I hope, forgive a state that is not a member of the club of the great and the powerful to put the issue before the United Nations."

Mr. Bouez said that in the Mideast, Lebanon long had waited for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 on Israeli occupation of Lebanon.

But the Security Council opts not to condemn the aggression — and when it does, both the victim and the aggressor are entangled in the same condemnation with the pretext of safeguarding peace negotiations under way, he said.

He was likely alluding to the United States which regularly blocks in the council any resolution or declaration directly condemning Israel.

In Washington, State Department deputy spokeswoman Christine Shelly said that Mark Hambley, U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, has left his post for "health reasons." She said the ambassador is not expected to return. The spokeswoman emphasised that this was not a political decision, the USIA reported.

Gulf takes anti-plague action

MANAMA, Bahrain (Agence) — Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain heightened efforts to keep the pneumonic plague from reaching their shores Wednesday by suspending flights to India.

Health Ministers from six Gulf states held a two-day meeting to discuss the plague threat and ended the meeting Tuesday without reporting any collective decisions.

However, Kuwait, in announcing its flight ban, said it had made the move in accordance with measures discussed by the health ministers. The ministers represented Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

More than 1.5 million Indians work in the Gulf, and thousands of travellers from India land daily at the region's airports.

Saudi Arabia's ban on flights went into effect early Wednesday and an Air India flight from Bombay to Jeddah that arrived in the morning was turned back, according to an official of the civil aviation board.

Kuwait and Qatar announced similar bans, but no flights were immediately affected as none were scheduled for the morning.

The Gulf countries, because of their traditionally close trade and travel links with India, were among the first to take precautions against the plague after it surfaced last week in Surat in western India.

Before suspending flights, they had installed medical teams at airports to screen all travellers from India for plague symptoms.

Two suspected plague carriers were quarantined in Qatar, but no cases of pneumonic plague have been confirmed in the region.

Announcing his country's ban on Indian flights, Kuwait Health Minister Abdul Rahman Saleh Al Mohaiian said that the emirate wanted to "prevent the arrival of the plague." Kuwait is home to around 175,000 Indians.

In Doha, Qatari civil aviation chief Abdul Aziz Mohammad Al Noaimi said the transport ministry "decided to suspend immediately and until further notice all flights between Doha and Indian cities."

A health ministry spokesman quoted by the official Qatari News Agency said the flight ban was imposed to prevent plague spreading, but added that no cases of the disease had been recorded in Qatar so far.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), whose 400,000 strong Indian community is the largest in the Middle East, is continuing to allow flights.

But officials said they had started checking all passengers coming from India spraying ships and aircraft with pesticides. All passengers from the subcontinent would also be forced to take antibiotics and report to local health centres for six days during their stay in the UAE.

Around 400,000 Indians live in the UAE, accounting for nearly one-fifth of its population, and more than 20 flights operate between the two countries.

UAE authorities are trying to reassure residents amid fears that the plague may spread from India.

Health officials met on Tuesday and decided to set up special operational centres in the country's seven emirates. Teams set up by the seven municipalities began spraying areas believed to be infested with pests.

Health Minister Ahmad Al Badi asked the officials not to issue any statements that could trigger panic.

"You should not exaggerate your actions so as to avoid triggering fear and anxiety among nationals and expatriates. Not a single plague case has been recorded in the UAE yet," Mr. Badi said.

"It is possible a plague-infected person may come to the UAE. But our health and preventive capabilities are sufficient to control any situation."

Health authorities and private hospitals said they had been flooded with phone calls enquiring about the plague.

"We are trying to tell people there is no cause for concern but many of them are very worried," a doctor in Abu Dhabi told AFP. "Some callers asked whether they should put masks over their mouths."

Officials said they had started checking all passengers coming from India and spraying ships and aircraft with pesticides.

Palestinians establish companies

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A group of wealthy Palestinians living abroad said Wednesday they were establishing three investment companies worth \$60 million in Jerusalem, the West Bank and the self-rule area of Gaza.

Munib Al Masri, vice chairman of the parent firm called the Palestine Development and Investment Company, said the three companies would invest in housing, tourism and industrial development.

"Our purpose is the development of certain sectors which are a priority for our people," said Mr. Masri, a wealthy Palestinian businessman. "We have decided to do something for the homeland."

Palestinian businessmen who amassed fortunes in construction and other industries throughout the Arab World and the Mediterranean seaboard have been criticised for putting little of their money into getting the economy of the impoverished Gaza Strip moving. Public support for the peace treaty hinges largely on improving living standards.

"We want to create jobs and help in establishing the new Palestinian economy," said Ramzi Daloul, one of the investors.

Mr. Masri said that the Palestine Company for Housing will be set up in Gaza with a capital of \$20 million to make a start at solving the chronic housing shortage.

The second company, the Palestine Company for Tourism Development, will be established in Jerusalem to deal with tourism projects with initial investments of \$25 million.

The third company will be set up in the West Bank city of Nablus, still under Israeli occupation, with \$20 million and will deal with manufacturing and industry.

Investors indicated they hoped eventually to trade shares in the companies publicly. Establishing a Palestinian stock exchange is part of the investment plans.

"We want to enable our people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to participate in the ownership of these companies," said Mr. Daloul.

The companies were set up after receiving approval from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Some businessmen have been reported reluctant to invest their money because there is no clear political system developing in the self-rule areas and everything remains under Mr. Arafat's control.

Youssef Ghanem, an executive in the new firms, said they are working with three different sets of investment laws, many in place before Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza in 1967.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saddam: U.S. will not relent over sanctions

NICOSIA (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein indirectly accused the United States on Tuesday of not wanting to lift U.N. sanctions against his country although he said most of the Security Council would favour such a move. "A majority in the Security Council is now in favour of Iraq. But we must not believe the U.S. administration is scared of the majority," he said in a statement reported by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) monitored in Nicosia. The Iraqi leader said only Iraqis' "resistance" and their ability to "mobilise their diplomats and media" would finally overcome the embargo imposed by the United Nations after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. His remarks came after several other countries, including France, said it was time the Security Council acknowledged that progress had been made in the control of Iraq's military arsenal following its defeat by U.S.-led forces in the Gulf war. The Middle East Economic Survey published in Nicosia said in its latest number that prospects for a lifting of the embargo against Iraq had receded due to U.S. determination and the U.N.'s insistence that Iraq should recognise the new frontiers of Kuwait as defined by the United Nations.

Canada offers to sell Saudis transport planes

JEDDAH (AFP) — Canada offered to sell Challenger transport planes and arms to Saudi Arabia Tuesday, a Canadian diplomat said here. Canadian Defence Minister David Collette made the offer during a meeting in Jeddah with his Saudi counterpart Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, the diplomat told AFP. They discussed the prospects for future sales of Canadian arms and other military equipment to Saudi Arabia, he said. Mr. Collette, who arrived here Monday for a three-day visit, proposed selling a longer version of the Challenger, built by Canadair, carrying up to 50 passengers. He also held talks with the Saudi crown prince, Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz. The Saudi national carrier Saudia is mostly equipped with U.S. Boeing planes.

Extradition request for Turkish leftist

PARIS (R) — France has received a request from Turkey to extradite Dursun Karatas, head of the Turkish leftist guerrilla group Dev Sol, the foreign ministry said on Tuesday. Mr. Karatas, one of Turkey's most wanted men, was arrested earlier this month entering France illegally from Italy. Dev Sol, Turkey's most violent urban guerrilla group, has killed Western military personnel and businessmen as well as high-ranking members of the Turkish security forces. France and Turkey are linked by a European extradition treaty. But France, where the death penalty was scrapped over a decade ago, generally asks assurances capital punishment will not be applied when it extradites prisoners to countries where the death penalty still exists.

Migrating birds use emergency landing

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A flock of migrating birds forced a Jumbo jet to make an emergency landing with one engine ablaze at Ben Gurion airport on Wednesday, an airport spokesman said. No one was hurt aboard the Boeing 747 of the Israeli airline El Al, which was heading for New York. "Migrating birds got into one of the four engines which caught fire and shut down," said Menachem Sharon. "The pilot decided to return to Tel Aviv and dumped his fuel over the sea before landing. The plane could have crashed. We are at the height of the migration season towards Africa. The flocks of birds can be so dense they even show up on radar."

Israeli team to Haiti gets green light

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli government decided Wednesday to go ahead and send 30 "volunteer" police officers to join a peacekeeping force in Haiti at a date still to be announced, officials said. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had held up what would be the first Israeli deployment as part of an international force to allow time to examine the legal position. But lawyers decided the men had a right to volunteer their services. The policemen had first been scheduled to depart last Sunday and start their three-month mission on Haiti on Oct. 1 after spending several days in Puerto Rico. The 30 were then to be replaced by a second group. U.S. troops entered Haiti 10 days after the country's military leaders agreed to step down, making way for the return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Israeli radical soldiers under watch

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli army has put suspected extreme-right wing soldiers under surveillance to foil anti-Arab operations, a newspaper reported Wednesday. A special military police unit has been set up to track the suspects in cooperation with the General Security Service Shin Bet and has already prevented several illegal moves. The Yediot Aharonot said. Chief of Staff Ehud Barak ordered crackdown in the wake of the Feb. 25 massacre of more than 30 Palestinians in a Hebron mosque by a settler who was a reserve army doctor. The daily said the army had intelligence that extremists were planning to further attacks on Palestinians. Israel has this month smashed a clandestine network of Jewish extremists — including several soldiers — who are suspected of murdering several Palestinians and plotted more killings. General Barak told the Yediot he was "worried" that an officer was among the suspects. An army spokesman said that a special military police unit had been formed to follow suspected right-wing soldiers. "The military police investigates cases of soldiers suspected of crimes such as stealing arms and ammunition... to prevent illegal acts, but never takes into account political opinions," he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 72311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
19:00 Grand Voix De La Musique
19:30 News in French
20:00 Varieties
20:30 News in Hebrew
21:00 Battistara Galactica
21:30 News in Arabic
22:00 Murder She Wrote
22:30 News in English
23:00 Film: "Opposites Attract"

PRAYER TIMES
17:30 (Sunrise) Duhur
18:45 Asr
19:30 Maghreb
18:47 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish Tel 41740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632765.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 624543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772641.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624528.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195.
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 679991.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811265

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
The weather will be pleasant with clouds appearing at different altitudes and winds westerly moderate. In Aqaba, moderate weather conditions will prevail with the skies partly cloudy. Winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 17 / 28
Aqaba 22 / 34
Deserts 14 / 32
Jordan Valley 21 / 34
Yesterday's high temperatures:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 29, Aqaba 35 Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal As'ad 751672
Dr. I. Ali Al Asmar 890504
Dr. Jihad Zaid 849362
Dr. Jihad Zaid 881184
First pharmacy 681112
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637155
Narmukh pharmacy 623472
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Shimoon pharmacy 637660
Najm pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Khalidi 273089
Alquds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Randa Shain 985710
Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Recue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 771121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 618900
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 681100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information (8-5330)
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-33300

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 8138132
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 6442816

AKILAH Maternity, J. Amn.
642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeban 6641714
Shmeban Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdali 66412757
Al-Ahl, Abdali 6641649
Italian, Al-Muasher 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 891611/15
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 6224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa Modern Hospital (09)90560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)984732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)90990
IRBID:
Greek Basma Hospital (02)75555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72775
The Al Nafesa Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Palestine Haya Hospital (06)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)
03:25 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur
05:00 Aden (RJ)
07:15 Sanana (RJ)
08:45 New Delhi (RJ)
09:00 Dubai, Beirut (RJ)
09:15 Riyadh (RJ)
09:15 Aqaba (RJ)
10:00 Beirut (RJ)
10:00 Colombo (RJ)
14:30 Bangkok (RJ)
16:50 Cairo (RJ)
17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
18:35 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:45 Athens (RJ)
Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
20:00 Rome (RJ)
23:30 Larnaca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
12:10 Sharjah (AF)
12:50 Abu Dhabi (CF)
13:00 Riyadh (CF)
19:20 Beirut (MS)
20:15 Beirut (ME)
20:30 Dubai (E)
21:30 Istanbul (TK)
23:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)
05:45 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
10:45 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
11:00 Beirut (MS)
11:15 Rome (RJ)
11:20 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:00 Athens (RJ)
12:00 London (RJ)
12:30 Aqaba (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
19:15 Larnaca (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:30 Doha (RJ)
21:30 Doha, Muscat (RJ)
21:45 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
04:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:15 Beirut (ME)
13:10 Algiers (AF)
13:30 Doha, Al Ain, Muscat (GF)
14:30 Riyadh (SV)
20:15 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 720 / 500
Banana 680
Banana (Makassar) 620
Cabbage 130 / 60
Carrot 300/200
Cauliflower 200 / 70
Cucumbers (large) 120 / 30
Cucumbers (small) 280 / 180
Eggplant 240 / 140
Garlic 400/70
Grapes 350 / 220
Grapes (Hilwan) 900 / 600
Guava 450/280
Honey 240 / 80
Lemon (large) 240 / 160
Marrow (small) 350 / 250
Mulukhiyah 180 / 10
Onion (dry) 320 / 240
Onion (green) 350 / 240
Pepper (hot) 240 / 200
Pepper (sweet) 300 / 200
Potato 300 / 200
Pomegranate 360 / 240
Spinach 300 / 200
Tomato 150 / 90
Wine 500 / 70
Watermelon 200 / 100

ACE HOTEL - AMMAN

فندق ريج



Al al Bayt Foundation President Nasser al-Bayt Sunday chairs the opening in Europe (Petra photo) meeting of Islamic scholars gathered to

Scholars asked to reflect true image of Islam

AMMAN (Petra) — Nasser al-Bayt Foundation President Nasser al-Bayt Sunday chairs the opening in Europe (Petra photo) meeting of Islamic scholars gathered to discuss the status of Muslim communities in Europe.

Al al Bayt Foundation President Nasser al-Bayt Sunday chairs the opening in Europe (Petra photo) meeting of Islamic scholars gathered to discuss the status of Muslim communities in Europe.

achieved major scientific and technological accomplishments, while other communities are faced with oppression and ethnic cleansing practices and are deprived of their human rights.

This situation reveals the contradictions at the European political scene and manifests the difference between calls for respecting principles and application, added Dr. Assad.

Assad's call on the Muslim scholars to develop their research work concerning these communities with a view to shedding light on their social conditions and their contributions to society.

A total of 25 scholars from the Balkan region and other European nations as well as Jordan are discussing several topics of concern to Muslims in Europe.

PSD arrests suspect in Naour murder case

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Public Security Department (PSD) Wednesday announced the arrest of a suspect in connection with the murder of a 60-year-old man in Naour six months ago, according to Colonel Hassan Smadi of the PSD.

found at the scene of the crime, they matched," Col. Smadi said.

The murder victim, Salem Ali Aifashat, who lived alone in Naour, was found stabbed to death in his bed on March 9; a tie was wrapped tight around his neck.

said the Col., the victim invited O.M.R. to a Ramadan breakfast at his apartment. After they had eaten, the official said, the two men watched a pornographic video film.

Minutes later, according to Col. Smadi, Mr. Aifashat made a sexual advance towards his guest. The suspect told police he refused the advance but when Mr. Aifashat persisted the suspect became angry and picked up a small gas stove and struck the man in the head, Col. Smadi said.

Police officials said the suspect went to his brother's house in Sakf Al Sail in Amman and began working there as a scraps salesman before being apprehended by police.

Captain Farid Shareh, the public relations director of the CDD, said continuous rains in Irbid caused streams that swept away dust, rocks and branches and blocked the drainage system, the canals and culverts and raised the water level. The Meteorology Department said Irbid had received 7.3 millimetres of rainfall.

Minister urges Arab engineers to upgrade efficiency

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzaq Ensour Wednesday opened a meeting of the Arab Engineers Federation, which represents engineers' unions in all Arab states.

Though Arab engineers are responsible for much of the development in the Arab World, interaction and close cooperation are non-existent between the federation and the Arab states and the Arab League, said Mr. Shukri.

Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) President Laith Shubeilat urged the federation to rise above the political differences among Arab countries and pool the engineers' efforts for the benefit of the Arab society.

Mr. Shubeilat also denounced the idea of separating politics from the engineering profession, stressing that professionals should be instrumental in shaping public opinion.

The two-day meeting will discuss Arab engineering consultancy offices, cooperation among Arab engineers' unions and obstacles to the federation's activities among other relevant topics.

Forty houses in Al Mashareh and Seil Homeh towns in Irbid Tuesday were evacuated after heavy rains caused floods in that area, forcing residents to flee to safer areas, according to the Civil Defence Department (CDD).

There were no casualties reported, but five houses were cracked as a result of the rain," Capt. Shareh said.

He told the Jordan Times that it took the CDD rescue units, the Jordan Valley Authority and the Department of Public Works more than eight hours to clean the area.

Gammoh, Czech team study promotion of investments

AMMAN (J.T.) — Czech-Jordanian trade relations and encouraging investments in both countries were at the centre of discussions Wednesday between Finance Minister Sami Gammoh and visiting First Deputy Minister of Finance of the Czech Republic Jan Klak.

accompanied by a Czech delegation, also suggested that the two countries sign an agreement on regulating bilateral trade.

The proposals were presented to Mohammad Smadi, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, who said that the Jordanian side would carefully study the plan, adding that Jordanian laws offers attractive incentives to investors.

Dr. Smadi also called for the two countries to launch joint ventures and exchange expertise and modern technology.

Mr. Klak said an Arab-Czech chamber of trade has recently been set up to help promote trade between his country and the Arab World.

World book fair to open

AMMAN (J.T.) — Culture Minister Jumaa Hammad Wednesday announced that Jordan will host a 10-day international book exhibition in Amman beginning Saturday with the participation of 36 publishers from 15 Arab and foreign countries.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Hammad said the exhibition, which will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, will introduce the public to the latest publications.

The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Germany and the U.S. are among the foreign nations that will be represented at the exhibition. Visitors will be offered a 25 per cent discount on books, said the minister.

More midwives needed — workshop

AMMAN (Petra) — A working paper presented Wednesday to a workshop on population, development and family planning said Jordan currently requires more than 1,000 qualified midwives.

Alia Rifai, a teacher at the Faculty of Nursing of the University of Jordan, who presented the paper, said currently the country has one midwife for every 6,500 citizens, the ideal ratio, she added, is one for every 1,000.

planning centres increased last year by nearly 63 per cent over 1989, a development which reflects increasing awareness among families for the need to apply birth spacing programmes to help safeguard mother and child health.

Midwives are especially needed to receive training in communicating with local communities and providing advice on sound methods of family planning, she added.

In contrast, pregnancy complications are responsible for no more than two per cent of maternal deaths in the United States and Europe, said Dr. Batayneh, adding that maternal deaths often affect women under 18 years of age or those above 35, and usually after four births.

Dr. Batayneh's statistics show that 1.5 million babies are born in the Arab World to young mothers and that 80 per cent of the women in the third world marry before the age of 19.

Hammad says Jordan maintaining national unity despite challenges

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Salameh Hammad said Wednesday Jordan had managed to withstand all challenges facing it and was able to maintain its national unity. At a meeting with members of the sports clubs of Al Wihdat and Al Hussein refugee camps, Mr. Hammad said hooliganism witnessed at times in Jordanian sports fields would in no way harm national unity, stressing that public security forces "are

but your sons and brothers who aim only to serve the homeland and its people."

Jordan, he said, is not sensitive to dealing with political issues since it respects political pluralism and it has almost 22 political parties operating in it. The minister underlined the importance of safeguarding national unity and fighting some "destructive inherited customs."

representatives of the Public Security Department (PSD) and sports clubs to coordinate in fighting hooliganism and to provide the proper atmosphere for holding sports events.

The meeting was attended by the secretary general of the ministry of interior, the governor of Amman, the acting director of Amman police and senior ministry officials.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- FILMS**
- ★ Film entitled "Firefox" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. (136 minutes).
 - ★ Spanish film entitled "La Noche Mas Hermosa" at the Instituto Cervantes (The Spanish Cultural Centre) on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. (Tel. 610858).
- FESTIVAL DAY**
- ★ Festival day (sale of food, sweets, books, toys and crafts as well as music, pony rides, games and nina turtles) at Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped off the 7th Circle on Friday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- PLAY**
- ★ Play in Arabic entitled "The Body Test/the Existence" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
- SOLO MUSICAL PERFORMANCE**
- ★ Solo musical performance by musician Hikmat Nahi (who will play the kaman instrument) at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. (Tel. 695291).
- EXHIBITIONS**
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Wadhah Al Ward at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Wadi Tal Street (Tel. 695291).
 - ★ Exhibition of digital (computer) art by Dr. Shamil Kubbah, Omar Shahwan, and Karam Annab at Ain Art Gallery, Wadi Saqra Street (Tel. 644451).
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings by Dia Azzawi at Ab'ad Art Gallery (Tel. 862105).
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings entitled "Donation" by Laila Bustani at the Royal Cultural Centre.
 - ★ Exhibition of works by Farouq Zadeh entitled "Faces, Places, and Ideas" at Goethe-Institut (Tel. 641993).
 - ★ Painting exhibition entitled "The Other Sides of Mastery" by Ibrahim Shalabi at the Galleria Jordan, Mecca Street (Tel. 816755).
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings by Sahib Ahmad at the Phoenix Art Gallery (Tel. 695291).
 - ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Kamal Boullata entitled "Duets, Quartets, and a Triangle" at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Abdullah meets with Kliestil

VIENNA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Tuesday met here with Austrian President Thomas Kliestil and conveyed to him a message from His Majesty King Hussein. Prince Abdullah and Mr. Kliestil discussed bilateral relations in military fields and means of enhancing them. The meeting was attended by Jordanian Ambassador to Austria Hussam Abu Ghazaleh. Prince Abdullah, who arrived in Vienna Saturday on a four-day visit to Austria, also met with the Austrian army's inspector general for talks on bilateral relations.

Nasser Judeh appointed JTV chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers has appointed Nasser Sami Judeh as director of Jordan Television, (JTV), succeeding Ibrahim Shahzadeh. Mr. Judeh, a graduate of George town University in Washington, D.C. was most recently the director of the Jordan Information Bureau in London. Before taking that post in the U.K., Mr. Judeh worked for the Office of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Moroccan trade minister to arrive for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A Moroccan economic delegation led by Minister of Industry and Trade Edris Hatho is due in Amman Thursday on a several-day visit to Jordan. The Moroccan minister will hold talks with his Jordanian counterpart Rima Khalaf on matters related to economic and trade relations, and the two ministers will sign a protocol regulating trade exchanges.

Volunteers plan march to stop road accidents

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents (SPRA) Friday is organising its first march under the theme, "let's work together to stop tragic road accidents."

"We have noticed that in the past five years road accidents increased dramatically, and this year the country was shocked by two major tragic accidents which prompted the society to take some action," said retired Brigadier General Hussni Ala Din, president of the march preparatory committee, adding that "road accidents are the responsibility of all parties, and our job as a society is to alert people and educate them to minimise road accidents."

He told the Jordan Times that the idea of the march was spurred after the road accident in Irbid last June which claimed the lives of more than 30 individuals and left dozens injured.

The accident took place at the Naimeh intersection on the Amman-Irbid road and involved two buses and a tractor.

"We were going to conduct this march after that accident, but we were delayed because we were waiting for the approval," he said.

According to Brig. Gen. Ala Din, last year's 24,799 road accidents claimed the lives of 440 persons and left 11,754 injured. In 1989, the number of road accidents was 18,336 and resulted in the death of 355 and the injury of 9,474 individuals.

He attributed the 1993 increase to the rise in the number of vehicles in the Kingdom after the Gulf war.

In the past five years, he added, the total number of people killed as a result of road accidents was 1,950.

According to Brig. Gen. Ala Din, Jordan is ranked in the middle among countries of the world in road accidents, and every year, "300,000 persons are killed in the world because of road accidents and more than 10 million are injured. Financial losses are estimated in the billions of dollars."

The society, which was established as a voluntary organisation in 1975, aims to increase traffic awareness, study ways to implement procedures to prevent road accidents, and provide recommendations to specialised authorities.

In addition, the society conducts lectures, campaigns and conferences to increase people's awareness of road safety.

He said following the march, SPRA is going to provide a list of suggestions to be presented to the concerned authorities.

"We are going to ask the Ministry of Education to add traffic education in its curriculum, and urge the prime ministry to approve the establishment of a national council on road safety which was presented two years ago," Brig. Gen. Ala Din said.

Moreover, he added, the society will present suggestions to the traffic department to establish a file for each licensed driver based on a penalty points system. "If a driver exhausts all his/her points because of the accumulation of traffic tickets, his/her licence will be seized for a certain period and he/she will be obliged to attend a driving course."

More than 2,000 citizens, including children, headed by Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma Bint Al Hassan will take to the streets holding advisory banners, some of which will read, "insure our safety and drive safely, road accident victims are more than war victims, safety of children is safety of generations."

The march will start at 9:30 a.m. from the Sports City's main gate, and marchers from schools, community colleges and university students and staff, will participate in covering the six-kilometre route which will bring marchers back to the Sports City.

Dudayev survives biggest rebel advance in 6 months

GROZNY, Chechnya (AFP) — Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev deployed elite forces to retain control of the capital of his breakaway Russian republic Wednesday after rebel forces entered the suburbs in their biggest advance in six months of fighting.

The 150 elite soldiers ringed the presidential palace in central Grozny and the government made a television appeal to the population to defend the city against the Moscow-backed rebels, who made their stunning attack late Tuesday night.

On Wednesday, the remains of a Russian-made T-36 tank and two armoured personnel carriers belonging to Mr. Dudayev's forces lay smoking just seven kilometres west of Grozny in the village of Alkhan Yurt. Local residents said the

vehicles had been hit by Grad rockets.

Across the road lay a burned-out light armoured car which bystanders said belonged to the rebels. Several cars and a truck were also destroyed in the fighting.

Reporters were told to leave the area by a plainclothes official from the Chechen Defence Ministry who said, "It's too dangerous for you here."

Children played around the debris, picking up empty ammunition cases and the village was markedly tense.

The rebel assault was the most serious for the government in six months of sporadic fighting. In a major battle Sept. 17, government forces inflicted heavy losses on the rebels 15 kilometres from Grozny outside the rebel base of Tolstoy Yurt. The battle outside Grozny

involved between 200 and 300 fighters on each side. There were no official casualty figures, although there appeared to be victims.

The government said opposition soldiers had captured Usman Imaev, a close Dudayev aide and justice minister of the breakaway Russian republic, during the close-quarter combat which involved both artillery and tanks.

Vice President Zelimkhan Iandarbiev urged supporters to "protect the Chechen state" in a desperate television appeal. ITAR-TASS reported in Moscow.

A government official said the opposition forces were led by a former mayor of Grozny, Beslan Gantemirov, who was named earlier this month to head the Moscow-backed military effort to dislodge Mr. Dudayev.

Earlier Tuesday, some 500 pro-Dudayev troops made an assault on rebel positions near opposition headquarters in the northwestern town of Znamenskoye. The attack prompted a warning from Moscow that it would take all necessary steps to protect its citizens and restore order in Chechnya.

Mr. Dudayev, a former Soviet Air Force general, unilaterally declared Chechnya independent in 1991, a move recognised by no country.

Moscow considers the Muslim-majority Caucasus republic of 1.2 million people to be one of the 89 so-called "subject" states in the Russian Federation.

Russia denies it has plans to invade the republic to restore control, but it has imposed a crippling economic blockade and helped finance the rebel movement.

Sharif vows to defy ban on Sind rally

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has vowed to defy a government ban on Thursday's opposition rally in the southern port city of Karachi, his Pakistan Muslim League (PML) said Wednesday.

Describing the ban, imposed on him overnight by the provincial Sind government, as a "conspiracy" to divide the country, Mr. Sharif said "Sind is Pakistan and Pakistan is our homeland. Nobody can stop us from going to anywhere we wish to go" in the country.

Last week Mr. Sharif called for opposition party supporters to hold rallies and demonstrations in major cities and towns Thursday to force Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's resignation.

Late Tuesday, the Sind government barred Mr. Sharif, his two former ministers Abdul Sattar Lalika and Fakhr Imam and a former deputy speaker of the National Assembly, Nawaz

Khokhar from entering the province.

Aimal Khattak, a senior leader of the PML ally Awami National Party (ANP) and fellow ANP leader Zahid Khan were also ordered not to enter Karachi for 10 days. The ban on Mr. Sharif was the first since he lost mid-term polls to Ms. Bhutto's ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in October last year.

The Sind government said the five leaders could appeal against the ban.

The banned leaders were to speak at an opposition rally in Karachi. The PML hoped the rally would draw a huge crowd in the country's largest city of 10 million people.

Ms. Bhutto, who met with her party workers here Tuesday, said her government derives strength from the support of the masses. She said enemies of Pakistan were out to reverse the democratic process. But she added "no one will be able to destabilise the government."

Colombo announces peace mission

COLOMBO (Agencies) — The Sri Lankan government announced the formation of a four-member delegation to open peace talks with Tamil Tiger guerrillas, even as the rebels wiped out an army patrol Wednesday, killing 13 soldiers.

Information Minister Dhamasiri Senanayake told reporters here that the government delegation of senior

officials will open talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The Colombo delegation comprises Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga's secretary, Kusumir Balapatabendi, Information Secretary Lionel Fernando, a senior banker, Rajan Asirivadam, and design engineer Navin Gunaratne. "They will not have a man-

date to take decisions. But they will hold preliminary discussions and work out the logistics for talks between the government and the LTTE," the minister told reporters here.

The Tigers too have nominated four members for initial talks to be held in the northern Jaffna peninsula, which is virtually under LTTE control.

Mr. Sharif's decision to flout the ban could escalate the tension simmering since violence marred a nationwide opposition-led strike on Sept. 20, observers said.

The government had earlier banned all gatherings of more than five people in several important cities to foil the planned rallies. However, the chief minister of the populous Punjab province Manzoor Wattoo late Tuesday announced the order had been withdrawn.

Amid fears of clashes, Mr. Wattoo warned that lawlessness would not be tolerated during the rallies.

Mr. Sharif has dubbed Thursday's protest the third phase of his campaign against Ms. Bhutto, whom he has accused of "corruption and inefficiency."

He started his movement against Ms. Bhutto's 11-month rule with a two-day train journey across the country on Sept. 11 to mobilise public support.

Major Kremlin shakeup is 'imminent'

MOSCOW (AFP) — Four of President Boris Yeltsin's closest aides are about to quit the Kremlin in a dispute over whether Mr. Yeltsin should ally himself with Russia's reformist or conservative wings, Russian media said Wednesday.

The report was the latest in recent weeks saying that Yeltsin had fallen out with the advisors over whether to ally himself with the radical reformers of Russia's Choice or make a deal with the conservative opposition in the run-up to the 1996 presidential elections.

The aides, including the highly influential presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov, will step down within two or three days, Nezavisimaya said, quoting "highly reliable sources." A replacement for Mr. Kostikov had already been found, the newspaper said.

A Kremlin spokesman told AFP the article in Nezavisimaya Gazeta, a moderate opposition daily, was completely untrue.

Although the Kremlin has maintained a wall of silence over the dispute, not one of the reportedly disgruntled aides was allowed to accompany Mr. Yeltsin on his trip to the United States for his U.N. address and summit

with President Bill Clinton. Leaving Mr. Kostikov behind on such a high-profile trip was particularly unusual.

The Kremlin Press Service said an argument over the message of Mr. Yeltsin's address to the U.N. General Assembly was at the root of the row.

Mr. Yeltsin used his address Monday to call for far-reaching nuclear disarmament among the five declared atomic weapon powers.

The other aides Nezavisimaya said were about to lose their jobs were diplomatic counsellor Dmitri Ryukov, parliamentary liaison Georgi Satarov and speechwriter Lyudmila Pikhova.

Tension between Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Kostikov, an urban former journalist and author who speaks fluent English and French, has reportedly been high for some time.

In August, the popular newspaper Moskovskiy Komsomol and the centrist Komsomolskaya Pravda reported that Mr. Yeltsin told a bodyguard to throw Mr. Kostikov into the Volga River after an argument got out of control during a presidential boat trip.

The Kremlin denied the incident.

The Kremlin shake-up is

being fueled by a split over whether or not Mr. Yeltsin should cut a deal with the anti-reformist opposition led by Yuri Skokov, a conservative with close ties to Russia's vast military-industrial complex, according to the respected independent daily Izvestia.

The newspaper Tuesday wrote that influential members of Yeltsin's team, including longstanding aide Viktor Iyushin, backed a rapprochement between the president and Mr. Skokov, the former Kremlin Security Council secretary who was forced to resign last year.

Izvestia said the opposition, mainly Communists and nationalists, had recently chosen Mr. Skokov as the opposition's eventual candidate for prime minister, and that an alliance with him was completely opposed by the pro-reform Yeltsin aides.

Reformist Yeltsin aides want the president to link forces with Russia's Choice, the radical economic reform party led by former Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, Izvestia said.

"For Mr. Yeltsin, this is the dilemma," Izvestia wrote. "It seems that the first round of this struggle has been lost by the pro-democrats."

Mr. Chirac on the other hand has seen his support in a head-to-head contest against Mr. Delors slip from 54 per cent to 51, while Dr. Delors has increased from 46 per cent to 49.

If the race were to be won in the first round of polling, Mr. Balladur would beat Mr. Chirac by 28.5 per cent (up 2 points) against 18.5 per cent (down 6), while Mr. Delors would score 25.5 per cent.

Mr. Balladur has been hit by a number of scandals in the months since the last poll — notably the corruption charges currently being investigated against Industry Minister Gerard Longuet, a key supporter of the French premier.

In July another Balladur backer Communications

Rasmussen unveils Danish government

COPENHAGEN (R) — Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen has unveiled a new Social Democrat-led minority government with no changes in key ministries and consensus policies designed to safeguard Denmark's prosperity.

Mr. Rasmussen, whose government lost its one-seat parliamentary majority in last Wednesday's general election, said Niels Helveg Petersen, 55, a European Union expert, would stay on as foreign minister.

Mogens Lykketoft, 48, a market-oriented Social Democrat, continues as finance minister.

Marianne Jelved, leader of the centrist Radical Liberals, remains as economy minister. Mimi Jakobsen, head of the Centre Democrats, keeps the industry portfolio in the three-party centre-left government.

Rasmussen, 51, presented his new cabinet to Queen Margrethe II at her Baroque Amalienborg Palace in central Copenhagen.

Mr. Rasmussen, a pragmatic former trade union economist, had announced a 17-page outline of policies.

The policy platform, shunning controversy, did not try to hide that the minority government will have to zigzag between the leftist and conservative oppositions.

"All parties who want to participate in forming an active Danish foreign policy, maintain a stable economic course and inspire new domestic reforms will be given influence and responsibility in the next four years," it said.

"Economic and fiscal policy shall continue to yield low inflation and a big current account surplus so that the budget deficit can be brought down to zero," the programme said.

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U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali (left) escorts Japanese Foreign Minister Yohi Kono into his office for a meeting following Mr. Kono's address to the 49th annual session of the United Nations General Assembly (AFP photo)

Japan opposition to merge to challenge coalition

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's non-Communist opposition parties Wednesday formed a new parliamentary bloc, taking the first step towards a merger into a single party to challenge the coalition of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

The new group, called "Kaikaku (Reform)," picked former Health and Welfare Minister Tatsuo Ozawa as its head, though behind-the-scenes strategist Ichiro Ozawa is widely believed to lead the new party to be created by year's end.

Calling the Murayama government a "collusive coalition," Mr. Tatsuo Ozawa told the group's general meeting that they should create a new party "as soon as possible to respond to voters' expectations."

Kaikaku holds 187 seats in the 511-member lower house, becoming the second largest force after the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has 200 seats.

The LDP is in coalition with Mr. Murayama's Social Democratic Party (SDP), which has 73 seats in the powerful chamber, and the Sakigake, an LDP splinter with 21 seats.

The opposition parties, including the Renewal Party and the Japan New Party, headed respectively by former prime ministers Tsutomu Hata and Morihiro Hosokawa, have been preparing for a merger since losing power to the LDP-SDP coalition at the end of June.

The new party will undoubtedly take direction from Mr. Ichiro Ozawa, who heads the preparatory committee tasked with creating it.

Mr. Ozawa, secretary-general of the Renewal Party, is known for his behind-the-scenes manoeuvring in the previous two governments, though he kept a low profile

since a seven-party coalition was removed from power in June.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Murayama reaffirmed that the Socialist Party would make further efforts to integrate liberal elements into Japanese politics, Jiji Press said.

Meanwhile, a man believed to be a rightist crashed his car Wednesday into the headquarters here of Japan's Social Democratic Party.

The 33-year-old man was arrested, the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Agency said.

The crash caused no injuries, it said.

In a separate development, a government spokesman said Wednesday, Japan will step up its non-military contributions in world affairs but will not become involved in military operations, even if it becomes a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council.

Japan will "make a greater contribution than before in such global issues as disarmament, non-proliferation, development, the environment, human rights, refugees, population, AIDS and narcotics," Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi said in a statement.

He said Japan would "not resort to the use of force, prohibited by its pacifist constitution," but would "actively cooperate in U.N. peacekeeping operations within its framework."

Japan's constitution, adopted after its defeat in World War II, forbids the use of force to solve international conflicts.

Mr. Igarashi issued the statement after Japanese Foreign Minister Yohi Kono Tuesday declared his candidacy before the U.N. General Assembly for a permanent seat on the Security Council.

'Censured' Buthelesi apologises for TV antics

PRETORIA (AFP) — Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader and Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelesi received a slap on the wrist Wednesday for the furor he created Sunday night when he burst into a TV studio during a live broadcast to confront a political opponent.

President Nelson Mandela told reporters after a cabinet meeting that the government had decided on "a motion of severe censure" against Mr. Buthelesi "for conduct inimical to good government and the protection of fundamental human rights."

The censure, Mr. Mandela said, meant the government expressed "our condemnation of his conduct."

"We don't intend to do anything beyond that," he added.

Mr. Mandela, with Mr. Buthelesi by his side at the Union Buildings that house the presidency and the government, read a cabinet communiqué before taking reporters' questions.

"The cabinet resolved that (Buthelesi's) action constituted a serious violation of the right to freedom of speech and freedom of the press," the communiqué said. "It also poses a threat to the safety and security of citizens."

"It was therefore a direct challenge to the very constitution which our ministers of the government are sworn to protect and respect."

Mr. Mandela said Buthelesi had "offered an unconditional apology to the cabinet and conveyed his intention to do so personally to the nation as a whole," adding that "the cabinet accepted the minister's apology."

"I was quite prepared to resign if it was an embarrassment to him (Mandela) and to the cabinet," Mr. Buthelesi told reporters.

"I wanted him to stay in the cabinet," Mr. Mandela said, making it clear he did not want to jeopardise the future of his government of national unity, particularly in light of the months of wooing it took him to convince the IFP leader to take part in the country's democratic process.

Mr. Buthelesi said the cabinet heard a report on the incident by Plo Jordan, the African National Congress Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting, on which the IFP leader expressed "reservations" because it was "not based on both sides of the story."

He added, however, "I endorse entirely what Mr. Mandela said. I apologised to the cabinet. I take this opportunity to repeat my apologies to the public."

19-year-old Uzbek wins world pianist title

LONDON (AFP) — A 19-year-old musician from Uzbekistan took first place in the finals of the triennial World Piano Competition at London's Royal Festival Hall. Evgeny Mravsky was presented with his prize by the Princess of Wales making a new rare public appearance in her capacity as patron of the contest for young pianists created by Russian pianist Salimata Aronovski.

Britain's Paul Lewis, 22, who played Rachmaninov's Concerto Number Three in D-Minor Opus 30, came second and third was Jeremy Denk, 24, from the United States who played Brahms's Concerto Number One in D-Minor Opus 15. Mravsky performed Tchaikovsky's Concerto Number One in B-Flat Minor Opus 23. The princess attended the event at Royal Festival Hall Tuesday amid tight security, following a fire in the popular press over her personal safety. On Monday, the princess, estranged wife of the Prince of Wales, heir to the British throne, was mobbed by a 400-strong crowd as she made an unofficial appearance at a charity launch.

Tabloids reported Wednesday that a man who approached her during the melee Monday was a former psychiatric patient. Royal watchers have speculated that this week marks a return to a full schedule of public engagements for the princess who last December, under obvious personal strain, announced she was scaling down her commitments.

Although she is embarking on her busiest period since then, with four official engagements in the next 12 days, it is understood that she has not reversed her decision to reduce her public diary dates.

John Gielgud receives Japanese theatre award

LONDON (R) — Sir John Gielgud, one of the century's greatest classical actors, received the sixth Praemium Imperiale Theatre Prize for his contribution to the arts.

H.E. Hiroaki Fujii, Japan's ambassador to Britain, presented Gielgud with the prize which was accompanied by a cheque for £97,500 (\$153,500) at a special ceremony at the Japanese embassy in London. "The award is a delightful and unexpected surprise, a compliment not only to me but to the English theatre which I have served constantly and happily for more than 70 years," Gielgud said. First established in 1989 by the Japan Art Association, the Praemium Imperiale Awards are the world's largest prizes devoted to promoting culture and the arts. Recipients are chosen in the fields of painting, sculpture, architecture, theatre and film, and music. Gielgud is the first actor to receive it. "Praemium Imperiale provides what was lacking in the Nobel Prizes in the field of the arts... these prizes fill the gaps," former British Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath told the awards ceremony. This year's other winners — French painter Zao Wou-Ki, Indian architect Charles Correa, American sculptor Richard Serra and French composer Henri Dutilleul — will receive their awards in Tokyo on Oct. 28. Gielgud accepted his prize in London because he felt the journey to Japan would be too arduous.

Bobbitt sentenced to jail in 2nd battery charge

LAS VEGAS (AFP) — John Wayne Bobbitt, who gained fame last year when his severed penis was sent to 30 days in jail in his second domestic battery conviction this month. "One thing is apparent and that is that you are a bully," Municipal Judge Ron Farraguirre told Bobbitt when he sentenced him to 90 days in jail with 60 days suspended sentence. His former fiancée Kristina Elliott testified that Mr. Bobbitt twisted her arm and slammed her against an apartment wall on May 6. Mr. Bobbitt, 27, served 12 days of a 15-day sentence earlier for a separate battering incident also involving 21-year-old Elliott, a former exotic dancer he met while on publicity tour in Las Vegas. "I don't know how we're going to get this across to you that this is unacceptable behaviour," Judge Farraguirre told Bobbitt, who was also placed on probation for a year.

Russian plane crash due to lack of fuel

MOSCOW (R) — A Russian official said that a small airliner which crashed in Siberia Monday, killing all 28 people aboard, went down because it had run out of fuel.

The Emergency Ministry said Monday the Russian YAK-40 was flying from the Siberian industrial centre of Krasnoyarsk to Tura, about 800 kilometres away.

The plane crashed while trying to reach an airport in the town of Vanavara for an emergency landing in bad weather.

"Because of bad weather, the airport of Tura turned the plane away and the pilot decided to fly to Vanavara,"

Vladimir Skripkin, a local duty officer for the ministry, told Russia's independent NTV Television Tuesday.

"It was 38 kilometres away from Vanavara. It ran out of fuel," Mr. Skripkin said. He said the pilot could have chosen a closer airport.

Earlier reports said 26 people were aboard the plane, but a Moscow-based spokesman for the Emergency Ministry Tuesday put the death toll at 28.

The plane belonged to Krasnoyarsk Airlines, one of more than 300 smaller companies which have been set up since the break-up of the former Soviet flag carrier

Aeroflot.

The crash, the fourth in Siberia this year, brought the number of air crash victims in the region to 263 and heightened concerns over Russian air travel security.

"As a passenger, I do not feel safe when flying because the aircraft are worn out," Mr. Skripkin said. "This plane was taken from reserve, an Antonov 24 plane had been scheduled to fly."

On Jan. 3, more than 120 people died when a Tupolev-154 belonging to a domestic airline plunged into farmland near Irkutsk in central Siberia.

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NATO struggles with Bosnia, enlargement

SEVILLE, Spain (R) — NATO defence ministers, facing the threat of a U.N. troop withdrawal from Bosnia if an arms embargo is lifted to help the Muslims, meet Thursday to discuss problems over the alliance's role in the conflict.

The two-day meeting in this southern Spanish city will be the last chance for NATO ministers to review Bosnia before the United States starts moves to have the arms embargo lifted — something opposed by key European allies such as Britain and France, which have the biggest contingents with U.N. forces.

The 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) will also have its first discussion on which of Moscow's former satellites in Eastern Europe might be able to join and when, an issue that could prove almost as divisive as Bosnia.

For the first time in 28 years, France will attend a meeting of alliance defence ministers. Paris withdrew from NATO's military structure in 1966, complaining about what it saw as U.S. domination of European security issues.

The decision by Bosnia's Muslim-led government to back away from demands for an immediate lifting of the U.N. arms embargo may not be enough to ease tensions between NATO allies, diplomats and officials said.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic told the U.N. General Assembly in New York Tuesday that his government, which complains the arms embargo has given the Bosnian Serbs the advantage in the war, would be ready to wait six months for the ban to be lifted.

But Mr. Izetbegovic said he wanted a U.N. resolution on lifting the embargo passed now.

Washington, sympathetic to that view, has said it will start moves to have the ban lifted by the United Nations after Oct. 15 unless the Bosnian Serbs accept an international peace plan which they have so far rejected.

Britain and France have said they will withdraw their troops serving with the lightly armed U.N. forces if the ban is lifted, since they would be exposed to possible attacks from the Serbs. The United States has no combat troops in Bosnia.

NATO sources said ministers would discuss what role the alliance might play in helping U.N. forces withdraw. If they run into trouble, military officials say, an alliance force might have to be sent in to help.

With the conflict apparently worsening, there is also the issue of whether the United Nations should be taking a tougher line with the Serbs by calling in more NATO air strikes.

The Serbs have floated NATO-backed weapons exclusion zones around areas like Sarajevo and the alliance launched an air strike last week after they attacked U.N. peacekeepers.

While the United States is urging tougher action some other NATO members say the alliance must follow the U.N. line.

Fearing Serb reprisals, U.N. commanders have been reluctant to use force and this has caused friction with NATO officials who believe the alliance's credibility is on the line.

On Eastern Europe, NATO promised at a summit in January that it would take on new members but left the timing and potential candidates open — partly out of concern that Russia, Europe's biggest power, might feel isolated and resentful.

But German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe said Tuesday he wanted NATO to make clear which countries could be taken on first, naming Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia as the most likely candidates.

NATO has offered the Partnership for Peace scheme for closer military links to all its former cold war foes, many of which now want to join the alliance and obtain security guarantees.

Although Mr. Ruehe and others said no decisions would be taken in Seville, diplomats say there is a potential for disagreement in this first round of discussions on enlargement.

Germany is keen to take its neighbours to the east into NATO soon. Many other allies are more reluctant because this could strain the alliance and annoy Moscow.

Although the allies have agreed to appoint Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes as NATO's new secretary-general, following the death of Manfred Woerner last month, he will not chair the meeting in Seville since he has not yet taken up the post.

That job will be undertaken by acting Secretary-General Sergio Balanzino.

Shevardnadze resignation threat apparently defused

TBILISI (R) — Georgia's parliament postponed Wednesday's session amid indications that a crisis over head of state Eduard Shevardnadze's threat to resign was being defused.

The parliamentary press centre said the legislature would meet Thursday and would discuss only scheduled matters.

This appeared to indicate that the parliamentary majority, which supports the former Soviet foreign minister, had persuaded Mr. Shevardnadze to stay on in office.

Mr. Shevardnadze, fed up with repeated opposition calls for his resignation, said Tuesday he would decide overnight whether to step down.

"I will think tonight," Mr. Shevardnadze wrote in a message to parliament. "I will come and make a statement... this nightmare must end."

Opposition deputies blamed him for military and economic defeats one year after he and his troops surrendered the Black Sea city of Sukhumi, the last government stronghold in Abkhazia, to regional secessionists who now control the province.

Mr. Shevardnadze said he would not go to New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly as planned and would send his foreign minister instead.

The press office of the Georgian leader later Tuesday seemed to be seeking to play down the incident.

"There has simply been a misunderstanding," it said in a statement. "The head of state was speaking about his upcoming trip to the United Nations, not about his resignation."

Mr. Shevardnadze, a former Georgian KGB chief widely respected in the West for helping end the cold war, has threatened to resign before. On one occasion, he changed his mind after hundreds of his supporters went down on their knees in a central Tbilisi square.

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP) — Every two years of late, Slovak citizens have faced political and economic crossroads.

On Friday and Saturday, balloting for the third time in five years, Slovaks will vote for a new government — and a style of rule — in this land of former Czechoslovakia. Some 3 million of Slovakia's 5.2 million people are eligible to vote.

"In 1990 we were debating what to do with the Com-

Bosnia agrees to defer lifting arms embargo

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The Bosnian government has retreated from demands for an immediate lifting of the arms embargo, but divisions between the United States and its European allies over the issue remain unresolved.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, in a policy switch aimed at smoothing over a rift among major powers, said Tuesday his Muslim-led government would support a six-month delay on the lifting of the embargo as long as the Security Council took the decision now.

Mr. Izetbegovic warned the U.N. General Assembly that if his proposal were rejected, Bosnia would call on its friends to work for an immediate, end to the three-year-old embargo.

Washington has long wanted to lift the embargo but Britain, France and Russia have strongly opposed the move, saying it would widen the conflict and endanger their lightly-armed peacekeeping troops in former Yugoslavia.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who met U.S. Presi-

dent Bill Clinton in Washington earlier Tuesday, said he would oppose lifting the embargo.

"My response would be negative, of course, but we will discuss this issue," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Mr. Clinton said the issue might be "largely academic" because of the six-month delay proposed by Bosnian Muslim leaders.

"The most important thing is that we have to keep pressing the Bosnian Serbs to end the conflict," he said.

The Bosnian government's compromise would ease the pressure on the U.S. administration. It had been told by Congress to press the U.N. Security Council to lift the embargo if the Bosnian Serbs failed to accept the latest international peace plan for Bosnia by Oct. 15.

With the Europeans opposing any automatic lifting of the embargo at a future date, Washington still faces a dilemma.

A Russian official said Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin agreed in principle on the need for an international conference on the 29-month war

in Bosnia.

"Yeltsin suggested the conference and Mr. Clinton supported the idea... although no exact date was set," Viktor Ilyushin told reporters.

The row over the embargo was typical of the conflicts between Europe and the United States which have been a constant encouragement to Bosnian Serb hardliners resisting a settlement on any terms other than their own, political sources said.

U.N. Protection Force officers lobbied hard to kill the plan based on military assessments which showed little immediate gain for the Muslims even if they could lay hands on more guns.

If peacekeepers withdrew, vulnerable Muslim enclaves including Sarajevo would be left at the mercy of the Bosnian Serb Army.

The Bosnian Serbs no longer get military aid from their former allies in Yugoslavia, but their professionally-led army still outguns anything the Muslims can put in the field.

The U.N. Commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, has said



International mediators Thorvald Stoltenberg (left) and Lord David Owen brief the press in front of the Serbian Presidency building, just after their talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic (AFP photo)

N. Korea again threatens to suspend talks with U.S.

TOKYO (Agencies) — North Korea again threatened Wednesday to suspend talks with the United States which opened in Geneva six days ago, focussing on the Communist country's nuclear programme.

"We are not willing to have talks, even reconciling ourselves to the military threat of the partner," (the United States), the North Korean ruling Workers' Party was quoted as saying in its Rodong Sinmun newspaper.

The commentary, carried by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), referred to the second session of the third-round of high-level talks between North Korea and the United States which began in Geneva Friday.

"If the military threat continues, the DPRK (North Korea) will have to reconsider its good-intentioned measure of temporary suspension of its nuclear activities, which has been taken for the talks," Rodong Sinmun said, according to a KCNA dispatch monitored here.

"The hardline conservative forces of the United States, aiming to coincide with the DPRK-U.S. talks in Geneva, are openly letting out anti-DPRK blasts and intensifying military threat."

The United States has deployed aircraft carrier flotillas, including the USS Kitty Hawk, in the Sea of Japan. KCNA said, calling the sea by its Korean name of East Sea.

"It is a very foolish and unrealistic plan for the hardline conservative forces of the United States to attempt to wrest a concession from the DPRK and get unilateral profit by backing dialogue diplomacy with 'gunboat diplomacy,'" Rodong Sinmun was quoted as saying by KCNA.

"It is our will and immutable principle to answer dialogue with dialogue, strength with strength," the North Korean party organ said.

Rodong Sinmun said the U.S. military move was a scheme to get a "concession" favourable to the United States in the conference room and obstruct the DPRK-U.S. talks.

"The United States must make clear its position, negotiation or military option, clearly understanding the gravity of the ensuing developments," it said.

North Korea has issued similar warnings since the start of the talks.

Indian health authorities battle plague outbreak

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian health authorities were battling Wednesday to prevent the spread of a highly contagious plague which has killed at least 47 people and hospitalised more than 1,200 others.

"We are monitoring the entire country and trying our best to contain the disease wherever it appears," said S.M. Kaul of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) here.

Truckloads of antibiotics, a simple and effective treatment of the pneumonic plague if administered quickly, were being rushed to the

worst-affected areas in western India and a hunt was stepped up for suspected plague-carriers.

The NICD official acknowledged there was concern over reports that suspected plague cases had been discovered in eight states, but said: "We feel we've been able to contain the spread of the disease to a considerable extent."

"The outbreak is very much at a low ebb," he said, noting that there have been only three deaths since the weekend.

Two more of India's 25 states declared plague alerts

Wednesday, taking to 10 the number of states where the authorities are on the lookout for the disease.

The overwhelming majority of the suspected cases outside of western India are people originally from Surat, in Gujarat state, who fled when plague was diagnosed in the city a week ago.

The panicked exodus of an estimated half a million people from Surat has sparked fears of a spread of the disease to other parts of the country.

Surat's huge diamond processing and textile industries employ hundreds of

thousands of migrant workers and many of them fled for homes in other states following the outbreak of plague in the city.

Suspected plague cases have since been reported in the capital New Delhi and the states of Rajasthan, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Maharashtra, in addition to Gujarat.

The states of Bihar, which supplies much of Surat's floating labour force, and Himachal Pradesh declared plague alerts Wednesday although no cases of the disease have been reported.

U.N. suspends operation to move Rwandans home

KIGALI (R) — The United Nations has suspended an operation to move home thousands of displaced Rwandans because rumours and disinformation convinced them it was unsafe to leave their camps, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday.

"People are scared of going to the fairly unknown. There is also information by people inside the camp and on clandestine radio broadcasts discouraging refugees from leaving," U.N. military spokesman Jean Guy Plante said.

"Operation Homeward" had aimed to move up to 4,000 refugees from camps back to their homes each day starting from Tuesday.

The radio broadcasts have spoken of an impending invasion by ex-government soldiers who want to oust the RPF (Rwanda Patriotic Front). There is a lot of fear," Maj. Plante added.

The ousted Hutu government in exile in Zaire and its defeated troops are intimidating one million refugees against returning, saying they will be slaughtered by the RPF.

Ghanaian U.N. troops moved only about 75 refugees from Cyanika camp, 250 kilometres southwest of Kigali, to their homes Tuesday and British troops transferred only 27.

Maj. Plante declined to say if the slow start was also the result of a report by the U.N. refugees agency that said RPF soldiers were intimidating and killing Hutus in a systematic campaign.

Rwandan authorities have denied the reports of widespread killings in retaliation for the slaughter of an estimated one million people, mostly Tutsis, between April and July.

Maj. Plante said rumours

about insecurity forced 4,700 Rwandans to flee from three southern refugee camps across the border to neighbouring Burundi in the past two days.

An outbreak of dysentery was also reported by Maj. Plante at Kibeho camp where more than seven people out of every 10,000 were dying each day and may have contributed to the new exodus.

The U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) has taken a total of 35,000 displaced people home in the last two months.

UNAMIR force commander Canadian Major-General Guy-Claude Tanguant flew to the southeast Wednesday to assess the progress of U.N. troops in curbing lawlessness to encourage the refugees to return.

Canadian troops have reported finding 400 near a church and 100 others in the village of Nyarubuye in the southeast but they had been dead for months, U.N. officers said.

Maj. Plante said unidentified gunmen had fired on an RPF patrol in the southeast, forcing an RPF truck off the road. Three RPF soldiers were slightly injured but were saved by UNAMIR forces.

Twenty U.N. experts are in Rwanda investigating reports by the U.N. refugee agency that troops of the new government systematically killed Hutus, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday.

"At least 20 of the investigators are already on the ground," Maj. Plante told reporters in Kigali.

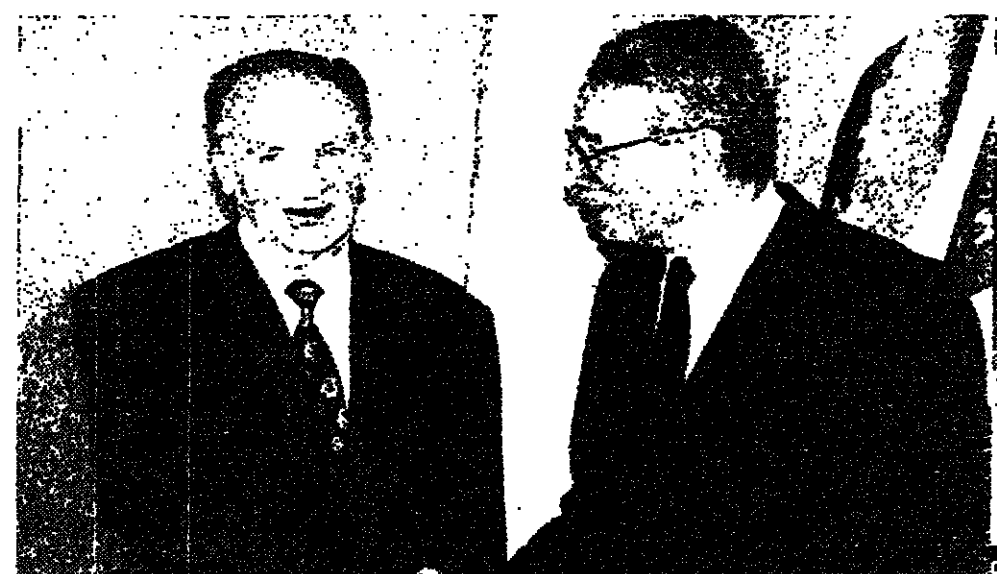
Their mandate is to investigate reports by UNHCR (U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees) that soldiers of the Rwanda Patriotic Front had massacred the Hutus," he said.

The U.N. human rights field office in Rwanda is also monitoring human rights abuses in the central African country.

The government has said it was not opposed to an independent investigation into the UNHCR reports but was shocked at the slow progress in setting up an international tribunal to bring the killers of

close to Mr. Habyarimana — who led an interim government under a peace accord ending three years of civil war — to share power, wealth and privileges as called for in the truce was the key reason for the violence.

African Rights also accused Hutu extremists of shooting down the president's plane, but offered no concrete evidence.



Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic (left) is greeted by United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali as he arrives at the U.N. annual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly (AFP photo)

lifting the embargo would ignite all-out war. He greeted the Sarajevo government's decision with relief.

"I regard this as tremendous news for the people of this country and the prospects for peaceful resolution," Gen. Rose told reporters.

He said Bosnian Serb threats against his troops following a NATO air strike last Thursday were mere "rhetoric" but he added that Sarajevo Airport would remain closed after a Serb officer threatened to shoot down any plane using it.

The Bosnian Serbs have prevented U.N. aid convoys from passing through their territory, blocked overland routes into Sarajevo and forced the suspension of flights to the Bosnian capital's airport.

But the plight of Sarajevo's 300,000 residents was eased when the Serbs allowed repair teams to work on a damaged transformer station near Vogosca and power flowed into the city for the first time in 13 days.

Muslim-controlled Bosnian state radio reported that hospitals, the city bakery, water pumps and public transport were the first to have power restored.

Bosnian army troops fired two 82mm mortars on Serb

trenches in southwestern Sarajevo in violation of the heavy weapons exclusion zone in force around the capital, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday.

Tuesday's incident sparked an immediate protest from the U.N. Protection Force to the Muslim-dominated Bosnian army, said the U.N.'s Lt-Colonel Bernard Labarsouque.

The mortar rounds were fired from the Bosnian government-controlled Sokolovic district south of the capital's airport, into Serb positions in the Sumarska area of Ilidza, he said. No casualties had been reported.

Earlier this week senior U.N. spokesman Lt-Colonel Tim Spicer blamed the Bosnian army for a 120mm mortar shell which exploded near the runway at Sarajevo Airport last Friday.

Col. Labarsouque said Sarajevo ceasefire violations remained high at around 1,400 but were mainly concentrated in the government-controlled Butmir and Serb-held Ilidza areas.

Butmir is the gateway to a Bosnian supplies tunnel under the airport runway, currently the only route for food, fuel and weapons into the besieged city from over Mount Igman.

Col. Labarsouque said

Serb restrictions on movement meant U.N. troops on Mount Igman would have to "cut back the number of patrols" in the demilitarised areas on the strategic heights, which dominate the southwestern approaches to the city.

French U.N. troops there were running short of fuel and the Serb restrictions meant they could not be resupplied, he said, adding there was a danger of clashes between Serb and Bosnian forces infiltrating the zone.

Separately, Col. Labarsouque said UNPROFOR in Sarajevo had only had fuel for some 15 days normal activity, as the Serbs were still blocking a fuel convoy with some 250 tonnes of fuel in Kiseljak, 35 kilometres west of Sarajevo.

In Belgrade, international mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg held talks Tuesday with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and the head of an international mission sent to check the efficiency of Belgrade's military blockade against the Bosnian Serbs.

The Security Council has voted to relax U.N. sanctions on rump Yugoslavia once the monitors deliver a definitive report verifying that Belgrade has cut military aid to Bosnian Serbs.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Free academia frees the mind

ACADEMIC FREEDOM is the most timely subject that the Arab Thought Forum has set itself to tackle at this juncture in Arab development. The Forum, in cooperation with UNESCO and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, launched this exercise Tuesday by exchanging thoughts and ideas from various Arab professors and academics.

Arab civilisation is going through a crisis, and intellectual freedom could provide the only possible way out. Using history as a guide, we observe that Western Europe did not put itself on the track to modernity except through the introduction of greater intellectual, scientific, economic and religious freedom that was launched by free thinkers, who dared open doors towards more reason and less passion.

Arab universities and seats of higher learning have been handicapped for decades by lack of academic freedoms to explore new frontiers that could replace the old and rigid doctrines that have enslaved the Arab mind for much too long. By and large, Arab educational institutions were kept under the thumb of governmental control, or imprisoned by worn-out traditions and taboos that prevented academic excellence from resurfacing within Arab intellectual and scientific circles. There was a time when the Arab-Muslim civilisation contributed a great deal to the development of science, medicine and culture world-wide. Its universities ranked among the most progressive seats of learning in the world.

Nowadays, there isn't one single Arab or Islamic university or college that measures up to international standards in the real sense of the word. Educational institutions do not earn good reputations for merely teaching textbook materials, but acquire their recognition and stature for the research that they carry out and the debate they trigger in society. No meaningful research, whether in science or the liberal arts, can ever be conducted in an environment that lacks freedom of thought. We certainly have a long way to go before this climate of freedom can permeate our universities. Legal, political, cultural and social democracy also have a long way to go before they take real roots in our midst.

What the distinguished panelists at the Arab Thought Forum need to realise, then, is that Arab universities have a tremendous task awaiting them, and that that task cannot be fulfilled unless academic freedoms are fully established.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IF THE report in the British daily "The Independent" about Iranian-Iraqi cooperation in selling Iraqi crude is true, then the embargo on Iraq has practically come to an end, said a columnist in Al Rai daily Wednesday. Earlier Turkey opened its borders with Iraq and has been making clear signs of resuming its trade with Baghdad, according to Tareq Masarweh. The Turkish and the Iranian moves leave the Arab states alone in the region in the application of sanctions on the Iraqi people. Iran and Turkey have realised that their real interests lie in resuming their normal ties and economic and trade dealings with Baghdad and have also realised that Washington can by no means play the policeman of the world, especially if Iraq, Turkey and Iran join their hands to quell the American influence, said the writer. The three countries openly refuse any form of hegemony by the United States and, said the writer, there is urgent need for them to join hands and it is incumbent on the neighbouring Arab states to follow suit and terminate their embargo on their 18 million kinsmen.

IT IS really strange to hear Arab governments claiming that they are keen on defending Arab national interests at a time when they take part in and condone the four-year-old embargo on Iraq, said Taher Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour. It is regrettable to hear certain Arab states pretending to ask for curtailing Israel's nuclear capabilities while at the same time they participate in an international plot to destroy Iraq's military might, said the writer. American interests, which require the continuation of the embargo on Iraq, are in reality Israeli interests and those taking part in imposing the sanctions are in fact protecting the interests of the Jewish state, added the writer. He expressed hope that Arab governments would have the courage to follow the example of the Turkish foreign minister who has stressed that his country's interests should take priority over those of the United States and that Turkey should adopt an independent policy concerning its relations with Iraq.

The View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

The freeway is the other solution

OUR ROADS seem to be still at their busiest these days. I have been well-acquainted with traffic in Amman for a long time, but recently I have done some extensive motoring in nearly all sections of it and at all hours. The density of traffic has increased noticeably, not just during the summer season when movement on the road reaches a peak due to the substantial number of visitors coming from abroad to spend their annual vacation here. This is the end of September and most such visitors have already departed. Presently then, much of the road activity in the capital is attributed to Jordanian motorists. As such, it is a problem which requires some attention and some serious solutions.

A few years ago, we had on normal days essentially two rush hours, 7:30-8:30 and 1:30-2:30. Today we have up to four or five. In addition to the two just mentioned, there is one around 5, 7, and 9 o'clock. A friend of mine who hates driving says "the whole day is a rush hour." On Thursdays and Saturdays road activity is unbelievably heavy.

If you happen to be in a hurry, to care about time or to be right under the hot sun in a vehicle without an air conditioner, motoring can be quite unbearable. You feel uncomfortable, frustrated and may be even depressed. You experience stress, anger, and may be even high blood pressure. There is nothing worse than being on a road where traffic is either remarkably slow or entirely at a standstill and you have five minutes to get to work when you need 15. The traffic light is taking forever to change to green, the lane you are driving in is way slower than the rest, and the driver in front of you is on a Sunday cruise.

The point here is that the consequences of a traffic situation such as this can be quite disastrous, affecting the motorist's physical and mental health negatively and increasing the likelihood of accidents. The price we pay is quite heavy: Significant delays, financial losses as a result, health problems, work disruption and material damage.

What is to be done? What has already been done is indeed helpful. The transformation of some of the two-lane roads into three-lane roads, such as the Istiklal and University highways, is an excellent idea even though many motorists still think of them as two-lane roads — partly because the three-lane road is a novelty in our part of the world and partly because the lanes are a little too narrow. The transformation of some two-way roads into one-way roads is also helpful.

But we need fundamental and long-term solutions. There are two, in my opinion. The first (the tunnel, about which I wrote a couple of weeks ago) is already materialising; the second, about which we have not heard much from the concerned authorities, is the freeway.

Frankly, most of our highways are no longer sufficient. The flow of traffic on them is constantly slowed down and interrupted; it is nowhere as smooth as it used to be a few years ago. This is due to many factors. Over the years, people have built shops, restaurants, mosques, schools and homes right at their edge. There are too many exits on them, too many pedestrians crossing them, and too many traffic lights.

What we want is a freeway. A freeway is, of course,

different from a highway. Quite simply, there are no interruptions on it. You drive on it from start to finish with no obstruction. People do not live at its edge, they do not cross it, and they do not park their cars in one of its lanes when they stop to buy sandwiches or vegetables. And there are no traffic lights. The closest example of it in our country is the seventh-circle/Queen Alia Airport highway.

The experts can, obviously, determine what type of freeway is most fitting for our purposes and for our geography and how many we need. From talking to many people, mainly semi-experts and enthusiasts, we seem to need three: one circular, around Amman proper (excluding some suburbs); two cutting across, one East-West and the other North-South. In addition, some of our highways can be transformed to freeways.

Some may argue that it is quite costly to build freeways, especially since Amman is hilly. They are right. But I believe that on the basis of a cost-benefit analysis, we find that the amount of money we lose as a result of the extremely-unpleasant present traffic condition (taking into account the accidents that happen, the health hazards, the delays, the financial losses etc.) is perhaps way higher than whatever cost there may be to build freeways. Furthermore, it seems to me that our country, despite its limited resources and the recession it is experiencing, does manage to come up with the funds necessary for vital projects. The freeway is not only vital; it is a necessity without which road life can be extremely uncomfortable upsetting and hazardous.

A chance for the world to start again

By Ian Black

AMAMA ESSY, the foreign minister of the Ivory Coast, has his work cut out over the next few days marshalling a procession of world leaders to the podium of the United Nations General Assembly to set out their policies for the coming year.

Mr. Essy, a professional diplomat with long experience in that gaudy tower on New York's East River and at its sister headquarters in Geneva, wields the presidential gavel during the assembly's three-week "general debate" on the U.N.'s work in the run up to its jubilee in 1995.

But after the set-piece speeches have been delivered and the talks and formal dinners have ended, he must get down to the nitty-gritty — there are no less than 154 items on the agenda, many to do with the vexed question of finance — of pushing forward an organisation where many feel change is long overdue.

Proposals for reforming different aspects of the U.N.'s work are not new but with the end of the cold war and rising expectations of the world body's capabilities some old taboos — including amending the Charter to deal with new realities — seem to be fading.

Top of the list is the shuffling of place cards for those seated round the world's "top table" — the Security Council with its five permanent veto-wielding members, Britain, France, China, the U.S. and Russia and a second tier of 10 rotating, non-permanent members.

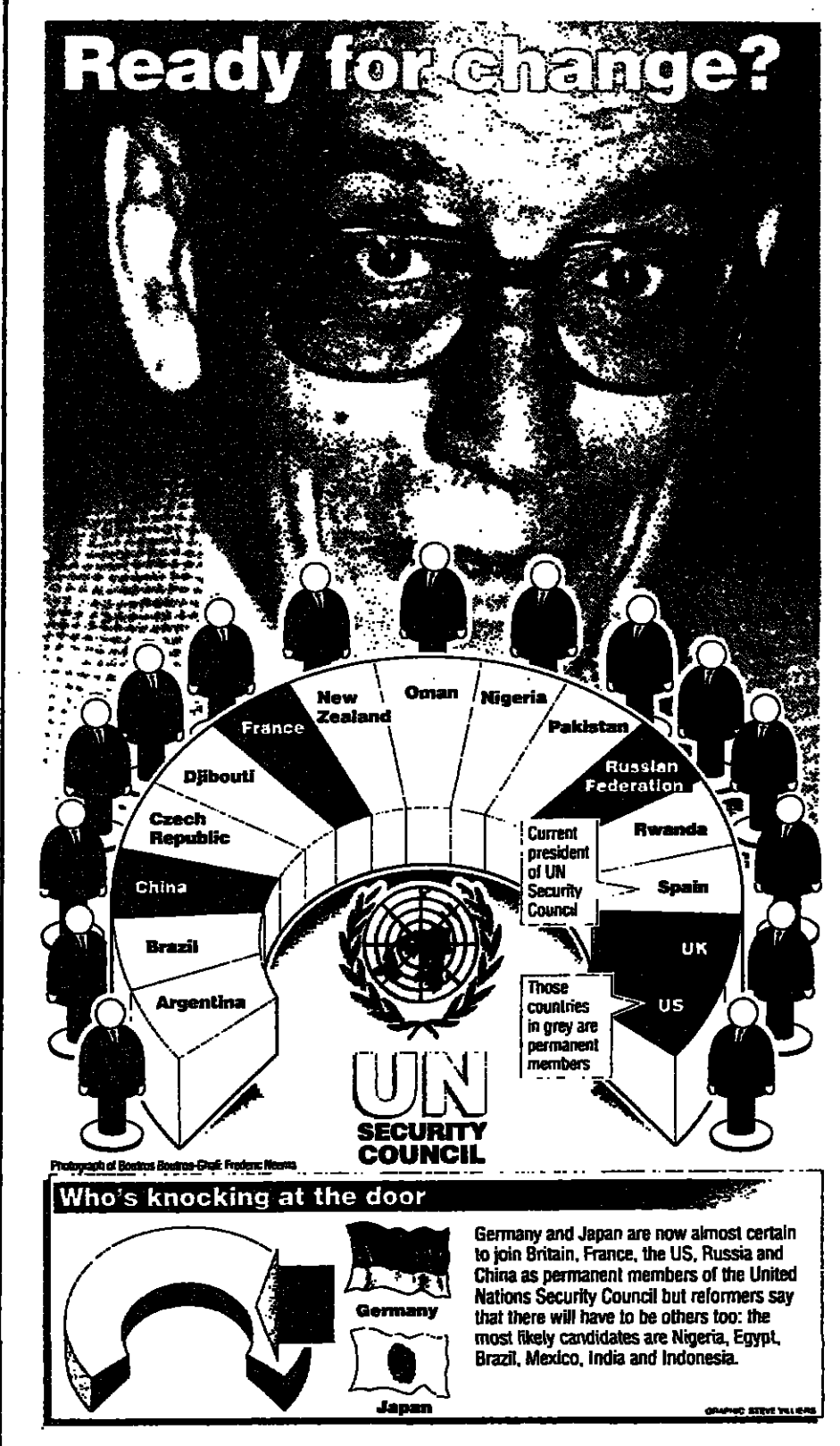
Amongst his other duties Mr. Essy will preside over a General Assembly working group that since 1992 has been examining expansion of the council, with a clear consensus now established that Germany and Japan, the losers of the settlement of 1945, will be admitted.

The importance of this change cannot be exaggerated: only a short time ago Britain, terrified of losing its veto, worse, being subsumed under a European Union seat, was arguing "if it ain't broke don't fix it" — a clever but misleading line that has since given way to open support for reform.

Far less easy, though, is the question of representation from other parts of the globe. The rival claims of Nigeria and Egypt, of Brazil and Mexico, India and Indonesia will not be easily resolved, nor will the veto question. But now there is a real chance that the 50th anniversary year might be blessed with this fundamental change.

This would be more than symbolic: it will mean a greater share in responsibility. The U.S., Germany and Japan currently have a combined total of fewer than 800 troops attached to the U.N. Zambia contributes more soldiers than the three richest nations together.

Peacekeeping will be a major preoccupation again this year, as it has been since the "Agenda for Peace" of the Secretary General, Boutros Ghali,



was upset by the unfamiliar complexities of the post-cold war world with the U.N. lurching from one messy expedient to the next.

But there are signs of a move away from political and security matters to the issues of economic growth and development that have always divided North and South and have never been given the priority accorded to them by the Charter.

According to Dr. Ghali, economic and social development is now the primary mission of the U.N. "Today, we have a deeper understanding of where the sources of trouble lie in our world," he said last week. "We now know that security involves far more than questions of land and weapons. We further realise that the lack of economic, social and political development is the underlying cause of conflict."

Such pledges will be welcome to U.N. enthusiasts as long overdue. The strengths of the U.N.'s specialised agencies have always been more apparent than those of the central policy-making organs, though an improvement has been seen in the creation of a Department for Humanitarian Affairs. Baroness Chalker, Britain's

aid minister, has spoken of the need for more work at the coalface and less in the boardroom.

Yet the old idea of an economic security council seems likely to make little headway as long as the major industrialised countries prefer to use the Group of Seven (G-7) the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), rather than the U.N. as an economic strategy forum.

Thinkers like Mahbub Al Haq, a former Pakistani finance minister, are pushing hard for action to restore social dimension to the world economy.

Much attention will be paid to next March's World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen and there are high hopes for a women's conference in Beijing to build on the achievements of the recent Cairo population conference.

Critics of the U.N.'s failure to come to grips with such complex global issues will remain sceptical even as they call for new mechanisms to deal with problems — environment, AIDS, drugs and population movement — which came on to the international agenda after the Charter

was written.

It all comes down to the 184 member states and the degree to which parochial positions and clinging to the status quo carry more weight than a commitment to interdependence. Prospects for reform, though, are better than ever before.

"In the end," wrote Sir Brian Urquhart, a former U.N. under-secretary general, recently, "there are two basic questions: What is the United Nations supposed to be, and, even more important, what is it to become? Are we to go backward into an anarchic age in which countries and peoples retire into themselves and put up walls in a desperate attempt to keep the world out and protect purely national interests? Or do we aspire to make a success of the one world that our inventiveness and ingenuity have already brought substantially into being?"

"If we want to take the latter course the phrase 'world community' often mouthed by politicians will have to take on a practical meaning — and its essential rules and institutions will have to be developed."

The Guardian.

Germany struggles for its soul

By Arthur Allen
The Associated Press

POTSDAM, Germany — Dieter Stein, a young man bent on reviving the German soul, is fighting the "dictators of conscience" — those "politically correct" liberals who harp relentlessly on the Nazi years.

His weekly newspaper Junge Freiheit (Young Freedom) mocks America and its parliamentary Democrats in Bonn. It honours the German military tradition and defends 1920s intellectuals who have been discredited by their association with Nazism.

Mr. Stein, 27, disavows any link with the neo-Nazis who have stomped around Germany hurling firebombs during the past four years. But some Germans view Junge Freiheit, which he founded eight years ago, as the tip of a growing iceberg of nationalism.

As Germany sheds the last vestiges of post World War II foreign domination and moves towards a watershed election Oct. 16, politicians and thinkers are debating the future shape of the nation.

The debate plays out in dozens of books, on the front pages and in editorial sections of newspapers and magazines, on podiums where national candidates paint their visions of the future as they seek votes.

On the right, there is broad questioning of the assumed wisdom of the postwar era. This ranges from a fringe that denies the Holocaust occurred to cultural critics who belittle the values of Western capitalism and point to other sources of German culture.

Many of the new critics are young and package their ideas in slick publications like Junge Freiheit, which tries to be a counter-cultural journal for the right.

In response to right-wing violence that has arisen since reunification, a group of German businessmen, politicians and other leaders began an advertising campaign this summer intended to imbue the young with healthy patriotism.

It was in cosmopolitan Frankfurt, the economic and intellectual hub of West Germany, that philosopher Juergen Habermas coined "Vergassungspatriotismus" — loyalty to the 1949 constitution — to describe the appropriate kind of German patriotism.

Mr. Stein's nationalism has other roots and other goals. He believes postwar Germany was stunted by foreign occupation and needs to rebuild its identity by celebrating past glories and loosening its ties to the West.

He chose Potsdam as Junge Freiheit's headquarters because the former Prussian capital, dominated by the Sang Sonci Palace of Frederick the Great, is in the heart of "middle Germany."

Middle Germany is what Mr. Stein provocatively calls the former East Germany. For him, "East Ger-

many" is east Prussia and Silesia, conquered by Frederick but ceded to Poland after World War II.

Unified Germany, firmly rooted in NATO and the European Union (EU), may take years to fully shed what Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel calls its "culture of restraint."

But the signposts of post-war Germany's special path — a liberal political asylum policy to make amends for Hitler's persecution, a limited defence strategy to make up for his aggression — are already fading.

Germany has refused 55,000 would-be refugees this year and is preparing its army to take part in international military operations.

Given Germany's undeniable strength, even inoffensive-seeming statements can cause alarm. Britain and Italy reacted angrily to being left out of a proposal by Chancellor Helmut Kohl's party Sept. 1 for a tightly integrated core of states in the European Union.

Wolfgang Schauble, Mr. Kohl's No. 2 and author of the proposal, set off howls of protest inside Germany earlier in the year with this statement: "Only common values and a national sense of belonging can give us a stable state."

He was accused by Rudolf Schirping, the Social Democrat challenging Mr. Kohl, of giving "nationalism and right-wing conservatism a pseudo-intellectual veneer MMM, a dangerous policy for our land."

Dangerous or not, there is growing consensus among German conservatives that it is time to restore some old values.

Interest is growing at universities and newspapers in such early 20th century intellectuals as Carl Schmitt, Ernst Juenger and Oswald Spengler. They were contemptuous of democracy and extolled the pagan sources of German culture.

Some of these intellectuals, known collectively as the Conservative Revolution, became Nazis or inspired Nazi ideology.

An echo of the Conservative Revolution rang from a February 1993 essay in the magazine Der Spiegel by dramatist Bocho Strauss, who trashed what he called a self-centred, soulless society out of touch with its roots.

In such a country, Mr. Strauss asked, why should it surprise anyone that youths firebombed foreign refugees rather than embracing them as brothers? Liberalism in the post-Socialist era is an empty idea, he declared.

Karlheinz Weissmann, a 35-year-old historian, described Mr. Strauss and other cultural conservatives as harbingers of change that eventually will embrace all of society.

Germany is destined to become a great power again whether it likes it or not, Mr. Weissmann believes.

Jerusalem — the city that was and the city that 'lies ahead'

Kamal Boulatta falls victim to Jerusalem's gravity

By Ian Atalla

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Long established as a successful artist on the international level and living comfortably as a United States citizen, Kamal Boulatta feels no urge to return to live in his native Jerusalem.

"I cannot tolerate the way Jerusalem has become," Boulatta told the Jordan Times at Amman's Darat Al Funun Gallery, where his latest works are being exhibited. "I simply cannot take it. No body in his right mind could, and I have the luxury to choose not to."

But despite over a quarter-century of self-chosen exile in America, the city where he lived out his childhood and youth still haunts him, he admitted. "I feel no nostalgia for Jerusalem. Yet somehow, its gravitating force is beyond anything I do anywhere."

Boulatta recalls sitting for hours on end as a small boy in front of the Dome

of the Rock, engrossed in sketching its innumerable and unfathomable geometric patterns and calligraphic engravings. Those patterns he saw as a child still echo endlessly throughout Boulatta's adult work.

The soft-spoken and hyper-cerebral Boulatta has also been made into an unlikely social activist at times by a bitter sense that "injustice is being committed on a daily basis" in today's Jerusalem. The eastern part of the city where Boulatta grew up is now in its 27th year under Israeli occupation.

Most famous of such social quests is the 1984 documentary film *Stranger At Home*, made after Boulatta allowed the Jewish filmmaker Rudolph van den Berg to record the artist's first return visit to Jerusalem after 17 years.

Both the visit back and the making of the documentary were unsettling experiences in many

ways for Boulatta.

Only now, after an additional 10 years, is he planning another trip to Jerusalem, to participate in a collective art exhibition at the city's new Al Wasity Gallery. The exhibition opens on Sept. 27.

Perhaps the most disturbing experience of the 1984 trip was a visit to his father's grave in an ancient Christian cemetery outside the Golden Gate. Boulatta found it in a state of slow collapse due to the adjacent diggings of Israeli archaeologists at the site.

"It was so incredibly unbelievable, I was paralysed... I saw the grave and it was just falling apart," Boulatta said.

He further maintains that relatives told him the archaeologists were demolishing graves there and "throwing out bones left and right" to pursue their excavations.

Ten years later, his view towards the documentary film of that brief return

home is ambivalent.

"I take the film with me to show to people because I realise that it touches them," he said. "But when you shoot 15 hours of footage and only 93 minutes is finally used — I mean, the film is a good story, but it is not my story. I cannot say it has anything to do with me."

Boulatta also published what may be one of the most emotionally raw indictments of Israeli military occupation of Palestinian lands and communities.

The book, published in 1990 and entitled *Faithful Witnesses*, presented drawings by a large number of Palestinian children growing up under Israeli rule in Gaza and the West Bank.

The macabre result was countless awkward and ungainly stick-figure drawings which depicted a nightmare world of beatings, torture, riots and other sundry acts of violence. Some were based on incidents witnessed by



The artist Kamal Boulatta working in his studio

the children, others spawned in their imaginations from adult tales and rumours which they had heard.

In Boulatta's own world, itself so dominated by symbol and images, perhaps none holds his consciousness more than his boyhood memories of the line of barbed wire which sliced Jerusalem in half before the 1967 war.

"Barbed wire marked the borders beyond which we were forbidden to cross," he wrote recently in *The View From No Man's Land*, an article for the *Michigan Quarterly Review*. "Through its coils, we began to see what looked for a time like an irremediable

wasteland haunting our neighbourhoods."

Boulatta found himself reliving that long-vanished wasteland which divided Jerusalem for 19 years once again while trying to define the meaning of his work to the Jordan Times, since as an Arab-American immigrant, he finds his art heavily impacted by both east and west, but denied a full place in the tradition of either.

"I wonder about the concept of no-mans land as a sight of creativity," he said, where one could live in the margins, "and yet find a third way, that says both are one and the same, like the two wings of a bird which let that

bird fly."

It seemed then, even more so, that the man who would never live in Jerusalem again finds himself unceasingly surrounded by its presence nonetheless, and further, anchored fast by the ropes of memory and imagination.

"I keep reminding myself that Jerusalem is not behind me — it is constantly ahead of me," Boulatta said, and recalled a story about ancient Spain's Arab ruler.

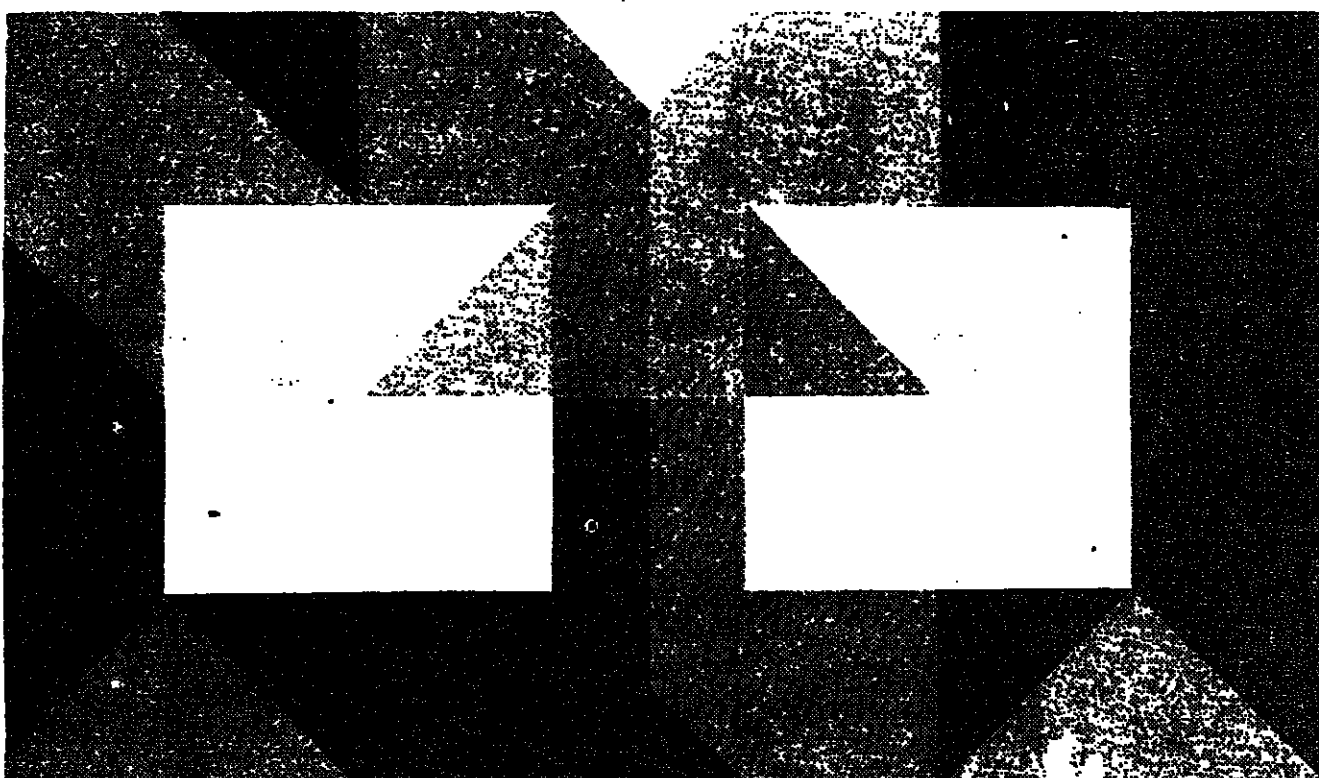
Abdul Rahman Al Dakhil was an Umayyad youth who fled the violent Abbasid purges against his overthrown family in Damascus. He settled in Spain after several years of

wandering, where he founded the Muslim Kingdom of Grenada.

What so fascinates Boulatta about that long-ago ruler is that he "created a paradise on earth in Spain, and yet he felt compelled to plant there the seeds of date-palm trees from far-away Damascus."

"And then, for the rest of his life, he watched them grow, and wrote poetry remembering the palm trees of his native Damascus."

This time Boulatta, the man of many metaphors, could only stop and wonder, at a loss for words. "Why do people do this?" he asked.



Iconostasis-I by Kamal Boulatta

Thoughts for this week

Love must be learned, and learned again and again; there is no end to it. Hate needs no instruction, but wants only to be provoked — Katherine Anne Porter, American author (1894-1980).

Character consists of what you do on the third and fourth tries — James Michener, American author (1907-).

Let the people know the truth and the country is safe — Abraham Lincoln, U.S. president (1809-1865).

The greater the philosopher, the harder it is for him to answer the questions of common people — Henryk Sienkiewicz, Polish author (1846-1916).

An appeal for a more civilised world

Culture And Imperialism

By Edward W. Said

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1993, 380 pages, hardback \$25

It is an accepted historical fact that European colonialists ventured out on voyages of discovery, establishing a presence in vast areas of Asia, Africa and Latin America. It is less often acknowledged that the colonies they created had a boomerang effect on the culture of the "mother" countries. This "voyage in" is one of many intriguing ideas explored by Edward Said in his recent book, *Culture and Imperialism*.

The realities of empire left indelible traces on European culture: starting from the 15th century. But, as Said remarks: "Most histories of European aesthetic modernism leave out the massive infusions of non-European cultures into the metropolitan heartland during the early years of this century, despite the patently important influence they had on modern artists like Picasso, Stravinsky, and Matisse..." (p. 242).

Culture And Imperialism is more than a sequel to Said's earlier book, *Orientalism* (1978), which critiqued Western views of the Arab World and Islam. The scope of *Culture And Imperialism* is global, and it includes a crucial new thrust — popular resistance to domination. Said is no longer content with merely criticising Western views of the formerly colonised peoples. He embarks on a new voyage to arrive at an overall understanding or theory of the relationship between culture and imperialism. His point of departure is that cultural identity is neither isolated nor static. Not least because of imperialism and "the global village" it created, the histories of nations are intertwined. All culture is hybrid. There is no pure British, French, American or, for that matter, Arab culture. Cultural works must be interpreted in the light of the concrete circumstances in which they emerged, including the interdependence and overlap between imperialism's core countries and its periphery.

Such a reading is only possible today in the wake of decolonisation and national liberation struggles: "For the first time, the history of the imperialism and its culture can now be studied as neither monolithic nor reductively compartmentalised" (p. XX). Said adds force to his arguments by bringing them up to date: "One need only think of the tremendously powerful upheavals that occurred at the end of the 1980s — the breaking down of barriers, the popular

insurgencies, the drift across borders, the looming problems of immigrant, refugee, and minority rights in the West — to see how obsolete are the old categories, the tight separations, and the comfortable autonomies" (p. 53). Said also notes the tragic consequences of denying the commonality of human culture referring to conflicts such as the one tearing apart the former Yugoslavia.

The novel occupies much of Said's attention, and it is here that the colonies first "intrude" systematically in Western culture. "... the empire functions for much of the European nineteenth century as a codified, if only marginally visible, presence in fiction, much like the servants in grand households... whose work is taken for granted but scarcely ever more than named..." (p. 63). One example is Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*, where a slave plantation in Antigua, the Caribbean, underwrites the well-being of *Mansfield Park* estate in England.

Not only does the metropolis derive benefit from the exploitation of overseas possessions, but without empire, Said writes, "there is no European novel as we know it..." (p. 69).

This contention might seem far-fetched had Said not backed it up with concrete evidence from the works of Kipling, Conrad, Dickens and scores of other European novelists. "... Significantly, the novel is inaugurated in England by Robinson Crusoe, a work whose protagonist is the founder of a new world, which he rules and reclaims for Christianity and England" [(p. 70). Said concedes that the connection between the novel and empire is not always so direct, but his extensive research reveals the more subtle connections to be found in many other books.

Although France had highly developed intellectual institutions in the nineteenth century, the British novel predominated precisely because the British empire predominated. "Only as North Africa assumes a sort of metropolitan presence in French culture after 1870 do we see a comparable aesthetic and cultural formation begin to flow" (p. 71), says Said, referring to the writing of Gide, Daudet, Maupassant, Mille, Malraux, Camus, etc.

Despite the overwhelming evidence of racism and indifference to the people of the Third World Found in European literature, Said by no means belittles its cultural worth. He simply insists that it be read in its proper context and recognised for what it is, including its manifestations of the consciousness of empire.

It is in his analysis of the connection between the 18th and 19th century empires and European litera-



CULTURE AND IMPERIALISM
EDWARD W. SAID

ture that Said is at his most convincing. His arguments are more ambiguous concerning the roots of imperialism. He vacillates between noting the economic interests and mechanisms that underpin empire, and attributing imperialism to cultural forms. In any case, one can agree with Said that culture is not a mere reflection of economy, and this view is essential if one really wants to analyse the topic at hand.

The latter part of *Culture And Imperialism* focuses on post-colonial writers who broke the West's monopoly on narrating the history of the Third World. One of the first of these was George Antonius, whose *Arab Awakening* counteracted T.E. Lawrence's account of the Arab Revolt in the *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*. The ideas Said expounds in this section are truly innovative, though his treatment of Third World writers is less than systematic.

BOOK REVIEW

Said reminds us that everywhere empire resched, there was resistance. In time, "the formerly silent native speaks and acts on territory taken back from the empire" (p. 31). Here the reference is to writers like Frantz Fanon of Algeria; Tayeb Salih of Sudan; Ngugi Wa Thiongo, Chinua Achebe and Amilcar Cabral of Africa; Aime Cesaire and C.L.R. James of the Caribbean, and many others. Said also gives credit to a new generation of critical Western intellectuals, but lambasts others, such as post-modernists, who have retreated back into Eurocentrism.

Said is most thought-provoking on the question of nationalism. In the Third World, it arose as a logical response to foreign domination — an ideological base for broad unity in confronting imperialism. But, in today's world, Said is sharply critical of nationalism and the attempts to return to an imagined pre-colonial essence. It is such "nativism" that spawns neocolonial dictatorships, fundamentalism and separatism. Said notes that such "returns" to past glory have also been promoted by Western politicians, such as Reagan and Thatcher, to justify interventionism.

In Said's vision, resistance is not merely a reaction but "an alternative way of conceiving human history... based on breaking down barriers between cultures" (p. 216). In the post-colonial world, the real alternative is not nationalism but "liberation which by its very nature involves, in Fanon's words, a transformation of social consciousness beyond national consciousness" (p. 230).

Culture and Imperialism boils down to an impassioned, scholarly plea for universalism, genuine humanism and tolerance — in short, real civilisation as opposed to the "civilising mission" whereby Western powers justified their subjugation and plunder of "lesser" nations.

It is also a plea for more critical education. Said expresses dismay at seeing today's Arab students studying English classics "as if they were Sanskrit" — rote learning with no emphasis on "the relationship between English and the colonial processes that brought the language and its literature to the Arab World" (p. 303).

Indeed, Said argues for opening a new page in human history — a welcome alternative to the cynicism of Francis Fukuyama's proclaimed "end of history."

Sally Bland

Memories — the way we were

By Jean-Claude Elias

The benefit and the pleasure we are getting from all the goodies the computer industry is spoiling us with are hampered by a strange contradiction. Our personal computers (PC) now require more and more memory to run new software, often slower than with older systems. Efficiency seems a long forgotten principle here.

While cars are now capable of achieving longer, mileage performance with the same amount of fuel, PCs need more "fuel" (understand here memory, disk space, clock rate, and so on) to give us an equal or sometimes even a lesser performance.

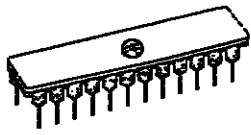
A driver doesn't care whether his car has 4, 6 or 8 cylinders; he just needs a powerful, efficient machine. Identically, PC users want to run their programmes quickly, regardless of hardware specifications that are of no interest to them.

Software developers explain that programmes now have more features and are friendlier. Fine, but this should not constitute a handicap to the user by forcing him to constantly acquire newer, faster, more expensive hardware.

Microsoft Windows 3.1 system that nearly every PC uses, can work with "as little as" 1MB (one million bytes or characters) of memory. With such a capacity however it will crawl. The minimum requirement is 4 MB while the recommended size is 8 MB. The new Windows 4.0 (code named Chicago), supposed to hit the market early next year needs at least 8 MB while 16 MB is recommended. Of course, Chicago with 16 MB is not expected to be faster than Windows 3.1 with 8 MB. A very optimistic attitude should make us say "wait and see."

Manufacturers will probably argue that the price of the hardware has gone down tremendously in the last

chip talk



few years and users should not be complaining about the new or the additional memory they have to buy. Nevertheless, the street value of 16 MB of RAM chips (Random Access Memory chips) is approximately JD 700, which is the total price of a 386-based computer, complete, with 1 MB RAM, screen, keyboard, hard disk, etc. Isn't this enough contradiction?

No one summed it up better than John Carlson who wrote to PC Magazine last August, saying: "If this trends continues, by the turn of the century we'll have operating systems that use 1 GB of memory and a 500 MHz processor to turn in performance approaching that of the original 8088-based IBM PC. I can hardly wait!" 1 GB is one billion bytes and the 8088 is the early IBM model back in 1983, also called XT. The current typical clock rate of a PC is 33 to 66 MHz and the memory size 4 MB (million bytes).

Could Carlson's sarcasm make software designers change their attitude? As long as both hardware and software vendors are making huge profits from this situation, this is very unlikely.

The 256 KB (kilobytes) of memory that used to give us happy computing in the early eighties are already distant memories of the way we were.

They leave their mark and then they leave

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

There is a mode of vital experience — experience of space and time, of the self and others, of life's possibilities and perils — that is shared by men and women all over the world today. We find ourselves in an environment that promises us adventure, power, joy, anguish, growth, transformation of ourselves and the world, and at the same time, that threatens to destroy everything we have, everything we know, everything we are.

A cumbersome reality has to be blatantly stated. We have at last tumbled to the point where, in our society at large and principally amongst our future generations — or futile generations if you would — in our attitudes towards others living in our neighbourhoods and communities, we have become so apathetic, so indulged in our own privileged surroundings that even human life has simply come to mean and represent nothing but something that can be readily wiped out, erased from our collective memory, if only to become a personal memory buried beneath layers of grief, bitterness and apprehension. The

hopelessness pervading the entire country has penetrated the soul to the body, shattering the latter. This heaviest of burdens crushes us, we sink beneath it and it pins us to the ground.

A piece of literary text from Joseph Conrad's *Heart Of Darkness* comes to mind here:

"I have been very happy, very fortunate, very proud.... Too fortunate. Too happy for a little while. And now I am unhappy for — for life. ...And of all this, of all his promise, of his generous mind, of his noble heart, nothing remains — nothing but a memory."

But a life which disappears once and for all, which does not return, is like a shadow, without weight. The cemeteries have become like gardens. The graves covered with grass and colourful flowers. Modest tombstones have become lost in the greenery. When the sun goes down, the cemetery sparkles with tiny candles.

No matter how brutal life becomes, peace always reigns in the cemetery.

These words are dedicated to the memory of my grandfather.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

HOWLERS

★ **THIEF:** One who has a habit of finding things before people lose them.

★ **TELEVISION:** — A dim view of life
— Smog with knobs
— The triumph of machinery over people

★ **TEACHING:** The liquidation of illiteracy
★ **SUICIDE:** The severest form of self-criticism

★ **SLEEP:** — Death's younger brother
— A cure for yawning

★ **SHAVING:** What a man does to distinguish himself from the monkey

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— With all my heart. *Min kolli qalbi*
— I don't oppose it. *La mani' andi bezzalik*
— Just as you like. *Kama tushaa.*
— I'm at your disposal. *Ana rahall ishara.*
— Allow me to offer you this present. *Imnah lee ann okaddim laka hazin-hadeyya.*
— Will you take a cup of coffee or tea? *Hal torred finjan shaay aw kahwa?*
— Ask what you please. *Otoob ma yasorrok.*
— In what way can I be useful to you? *Hal tokallifoni beshay?*
— You're welcome. *Marhaban bikom.*
— This is my duty. *Haza wajibi.*
— You make me ashamed. *Lakad akhjalani.*
— That's not my business. *Laysa haza amali.*

TIME FOR FUN

★ What's the cheapest way to see the world?
— Buy an atlas.

★ **SURGEON'S** wife: "Why have you cut out the back of this book?"
SURGEON: "Well, it was marked 'appendix' and I cut it out without thinking."

★ **WOMAN:** "Are you the boy who just saved my son from drowning?"

PUZZLES ANACROSTIC

Three clues are given against each number. The answer to the first clue is a six-letter word and should be entered in Column B. The answer to the second clue is a five-letter word and is an anagram of the answer to the first clue less one letter. The answer to the third clue should be entered in Column C and the unused letter entered in Column A. Similarly, the answer to the third clue is a four-letter word and an anagram of the answer to the second clue less one letter. Enter this answer in Column D and the unused letter in

Column E. If you have got the right answers you will find that reading down Columns A and E gives a related phrase.

CLUES

1. Illusion; Dirt; Mud
2. Dazed state; Squirt; Cease
3. Sombre; Citrus fruit; Burrowing animal
4. Purify; Deduce; Extensive
5. Fame; Proprietor; Threadbare
6. Stay; Underground worker; Bearing
7. Metal fastener; Adhesive; Record

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 29

7:30 Battlestar Galactica

9:10 Murder She Wrote

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — Opposites Attract

Starring: Barbara Eden and John Forsythe

A love story between two politicians (a rich and famous movie star... and an attractive woman councillor) — who are running against each other in elections.

Friday, Sept. 30

9:10 G.P.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Emilie

Emilie's joy with the arrival of her newly-born girl is short-lived... but her perseverance gets her through the troubles.

Saturday, Oct. 1

7:30 Black Beauty

Hunted

Will Bella return to the orphanage, or will the kind doctor receive the court's approval for her custody?

8:30 Bob

Unforgiven

The magazine is missing its last page; is it a mistake, or is it a deliberate act on behalf of Bob?

9:10 Murder She Wrote

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Money For Nothing

Starring: Christien Anholt and Jayne Ashbourne

11:50 Home Free

A mother spends too much time studying law and less time with her kids. She turns to her mother for help.

Sunday, Oct. 2

7:15 On Location

Meet famous film actors as they recall some of their best roles in films. This week, meet Mel Gibson, Denzy Glover and Rob Ryner.

7:30 The F.B.I

Claude Dallas

The F.B.I.'s long hunt for Claude Dallas was exhausting, as he was a fierce killer, good in disguising himself and knew every mountain and forest he went through.

8:30 You Bet Your Life

9:10 Sherlock Holmes And The Leading Lady

The famous psychiatrist Sigmund Freud assists Sherlock Holmes in solving the mystery surrounding the death of an inventor of a bomb whose secrets were stolen.

10:00 News In English

10:20 House Of Eliott

Back from Paris to London, the two sisters are to start again. Hard competition lies ahead, but in Jessica, their new sales manager, they find their hope!

11:10 Fly By Night

Slim To None

An attractive young lady by the name of Monroe and her team flies you in her jet by night — but wherever she goes there seems to be trouble!

Monday, Oct. 3

8:30 Coach

Goodbye Mr. Dutts

Haydn and friends play a game of golf against Judy and her friends. Whoever wins gets to park his/her car in the covered section of the carpark.

9:10 Columbus And The Age Of Discovery

The fall of Constantinople in 1452 led the way for curious explorers to look for new ways and roads to continue trading with the East. A young Italian, Columbus, was one such daring explorer.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mini-Series — J.F.K. — Reckless Youth

This two-part series will astonish and inform everyone interested in the life of America's 36th president, John F. Kennedy.

Tuesday, Oct. 4

8:30 Leave It To Beaver

9:10 Shades Of L.A.

A policeman in L.A. finds no peace as the spirits of dead victims haunt him in search of justice.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Garwood: Prisoner Of War
The story of an American prisoner of war who, after 13 years with the Vietnamese, learns their language and becomes the go-between and his fellow soldiers see him as a traitor!

11:10 The Upper Hand

Common Entrance

Joanne enters a private school only after Caroline pulls some strings. Charlie, obviously, cannot keep quiet!

Wednesday, Oct. 5

7:10 Battlestar Galactica

8:30 P.M. Magazine

9:10 Documentary — Cracking The Code

10:00 News In English

10:20 Poldark

As Ross and George compete for a seat in parliament, the secret of who Valentine's real father is continues.

11:10 The Exile

Chasing The Dragon

Following the fall of the Berlin Wall, an American double agent crosses over to the West. Whatever he does, and wherever he goes, he will always be treated as The Exile!

Sophia Loren turns 60, pledges to carry on acting

By Claudia Parsons
Reuter

ROME — Sophia Loren, the Oscar-winning diva of Italian cinema's golden era, turned 60 last week determined to continue a career in which she has played every role from a Neapolitan prostitute to a repressed housewife.

"I don't feel 60 at all I don't even notice it unless other people remind me," she told an Italian newspaper this month.

"I'm glad everyone is interested in my 60th birthday, but I also find it a bit embarrassing because I don't like to be the centre of attention," she said.

She said she planned to spend the day with family

and friends.

Loren's curves made her a favourite of photographers and directors early in her career. Winning several beauty contests gave her a ticket out of the post-war poverty of Pozzuoli, a grim Neapolitan suburb, where she grew up as Sofia Scicolone.

She landed her first job in Rome's Cinecittà Studios — then known as Hollywood on the Tiber — playing a teenage extra in the epic Quo Vadis. She never looked back.

"The cinema is and always will be very important for me. I'd like to go on acting until I'm 150," she said.

In 1961 she shattered the stereotype that had typecast her as actress

whose main assets were her buxom body, her olive green eyes, and her seductive Mediterranean smile.

Director Vittorio De Sica, one of the fathers of Italy's "neo-realist" film movement, chose her for the leading role in La Ciociara (Two Women), based on the novel by Alberto Moravia.

In one of the most impressive performances of her career, she played a rural mother who was raped along with her young daughter by allied soldiers in World War II.

The 1961 film won her an Oscar for Best Actress and sealed her reputation as an international star. It also opened the doors to Hollywood.

"An Oscar is the most important moment in an

actor's career, an extraordinary and wonderful moment," she said.

In the mid 1960s she again won praise, particularly in Europe, for her roles in De Sica's serial comedies such as Marriage Italian Style and Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

In them, she found her cinematic soul mate, Marcello Mastroianni, who rose to fame in Federico Fellini's 1959 classic La Dolce Vita. They made a dozen films together.

Mastroianni, who made the role of the Latin lover his trademark, turns 70 next week.

In her career, Loren played opposite such Hollywood greats as Clark Gable, Cary Grant, Marlon Brando and Peter Sel-

lars. She married film producer Carlo Ponti in 1957. Ponti had divorced his wife in Mexico but since divorce was still illegal in Italy the couple were charged with bigamy.

They have two adult sons and live in France, Switzerland and the United States.

Earlier this year, she started work on Robert Altman's star-studded fashion satire "Pret A Porter" (Ready To Wear) in which she was reunited with Mastroianni.

"We are so good together that we can do anything — ours is always a magic encounter," she said.

In 1980, Loren spent several weeks in jail after

pleading guilty to tax evasion. She called the experience one of the most traumatic of her life.

Her marriage to the short, balding and tubby Ponti, 24 years her senior, occasionally fuelled rumours of affairs with some of the world's most dashing leading men, including Grant.

"He was charming and he was in love with me... and I must confess I had a weakness for him," she told an interviewer.

But Loren always dismissed the rumours as false.

"I believe in marriage, in work, in children, in fidelity, and in my own roots — maybe that means I'm just a little housewife," she said.



Sophia Loren

This is the dawning of the age of Whoopi Zen

By Patricia Bibby
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Whoopi Goldberg, whose first name has been a virtual exclamation mark punctuating her in-your-face stance toward life, has a new movie, a new love and — brace yourself — a new attitude.

Meet the new Whoopi and — get this — she's practically placid. She seems to have replaced that exclamation mark with something more like a Yin-Yang symbol. These days, Whoopi is Zen cool.

Like a firewalker who emerges with a little sweat but a serene smile, Goldberg has tiptoed across the hot coals of a bad romance, a couple of public relations nightmares, and several box-office duds, and come through essentially with a big goofy grin on her face.

Goldberg is engaged to union organizer Lyle Trachtenberg, whom she met last year on the set of the film Corrina, Corrina.

And although reporters were warned not to press questions about her personal life, she was relaxed and forthcoming during a recent interview from her

hotel in Los Angeles, where she was promoting the movie.

"It did bother me for a long time," Goldberg says of the intense coverage of her personal and professional life. But she's finally decided not to let it get to her.

"It's the only attitude I can take now, because the scrutiny is not going away," she says. "I can no longer allow (the press) to dictate how I'm going to handle myself."

It's a hard-learned lesson for Goldberg, who seems to finally have shaken the cloud of controversy hovering over her for the last year or so.

First, there was the debacle when then boyfriend Ted Danson appeared at a Friars Club roast in blackface and made racially charged jokes. Goldberg came out swinging, defending Danson the next day at a press conference.

Then, there was the lackluster performance of Sister Act 2: Back In The Habit, for which she was briefly Hollywood's highest-paid woman, with a reported \$8 million paycheck.

Almost simultaneously,

there was the flap for the "Jewish American Princess Fried Chicken" recipe that she contributed to a celebrity cookbook instructing women to "send a chauffeur to your favorite butcher shop for the chicken," and to "watch your nails."

Somewhere in all the fracas, her syndicated talk show disappeared amid poor ratings and tepid reviews.

But that was last year, which in Hollywood time is long, long ago. This year, Goldberg wowed viewers of the Academy Awards as an emcee with her sexy gowns and her winning comic edge. She's one of the voices in Disney's megahit The Lion King, and she's starring, along with Ray Liotta, in Corrina, Corrina, which opened last month in a respectable 5th place at the box office.

It's a tribute to Goldberg that a gentle movie about an interracial love affair and a little girl grieving over the loss of her mother could do so well in a season bent on big, splashy special effects.

"She's quite brilliant," says Corrina's director, Jessie Nelson, who noted

that Goldberg contributed heavily in developing the role of Corrina into a housekeeper who was well-educated and struggling to better herself in the 1950s.

"I think it's a mistake for us to perpetuate this idea that women who worked as domestics had this as a dream job," Goldberg says. "It was very important for me that she be an educated, hip, smart woman."

"She really has an extraordinary imagination," Nelson says. "She has a lot of insight into human nature."

Perhaps that insight comes from a lifetime of disparate jobs ranging from bricklayer to bank teller to makeup artist for a funeral parlor. The jobs gave her the flexibility to pursue her nightly forays into the world of comedy. In FFMT, she calls her acting career "just another odd job... My longest gig to date."

Her longest gig to date was effectively launched in 1985 with The Colour Purple. She went on, however, to star in box-office disappointments such as Jumpin' Jack Flash, Burglar, The Tele-

phone, Sarafina and Made In America. But she's also been in blockbusters such as The Player and Sister Act. And, in 1991, she received an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in Ghost.

It's a long way from a housing project in the Manhattan neighbourhood of Chelsea, where she was born Caryn Johnson, depending on who you ask, either 38 to 43 years ago. Goldberg says she was born Nov. 13, 1955. Some reference books say it was 1950.

She quickly showed a flair for mimicry, but faltered badly in school. She later learned she was dyslexic, but at the time they simply labelled her "retarded."

"Nobody knew it was a horror until I was much older," she says of the misdiagnosis. "Being, you know, 'slow' was kind of OK because I could keep up orally."

Eventually, however, she became so discouraged that she dropped out of high school and became addicted to heroin. But instead of it derailing her life, she found a drug counselor, kicked the



Actress Whoopi Goldberg and scene from the movie Corrina, actor Ray Liotta appear in a Corrina

smack, got married and had a child, Alexandra. The marriage quickly collapsed, and Goldberg headed to the west coast with her young daughter in tow.

It was there that she became a founding member of the San Diego Repertory Theatre and invented the persona of

Whoopi Goldberg, "Whoopi" came from the whoopi cushion because, she once said, "I was very flutulent." And she says there's a real Goldberg somewhere in her family tree.

In San Diego, she honed her skills as a stand-up comic and soon took her improved act to Berkeley.

Then, in 1983, Goldberg was performing in New York when she caught the eye of director-producer Mike Nichols. He helped launch her one-woman show on Broadway, where she was spotted by Steven Spielberg. That brought her the lead in The Colour Purple and the start of her film career.

Comedian reflects on career at film festival honours

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

MONTREAL — Steve Martin claims this was his initial reaction on being honoured at the Montreal World Film Festival: "I wonder who dropped out."

The comedian, who generally shuns public events, recently came here for a series of appearances, mostly in connection with his new film, A Simple Twist Of Fate. He appeared at screenings of the movie and spoke a bit of French that translated as, "I'll order the eggs with cheese."

He talked about his life and career at the festival's ceremony for him, which included a 45-minute review of his films. It was a revelation for Martin, who said he never watches his movies after he has made them.

At 49, Steve Martin has reached a maturity that belies his initial fame as the "wild and crazy guy." His off-the-wall comedy brought him a loyal following in clubs, on late-night TV and on comedy albums. In 1979, The Jerk established him as an innovative comedian in film.

Subsequent movies exploited his screwball nature, but almost from the start Martin has never allowed himself to be pigeonholed. He under-

took a lavish version of Dennis Potter's Satire, Pennies From Heaven, with dismal results. He had better luck as a modern Cyrano in Roxanne, which he wrote.

His 22-film career has been like that, marked by hits All Of Me, Parenthood and misses (Three Amigos Leap Of Faith). A Simple Twist Of Fate, another Martin script, displays both his comedic and dramatic sides. He plays a bitter recluse whose life is transformed when he adopts a baby girl. If it sounds like something you read in school that's because Martin based his script on Silas Marner, George Eliot's classic morality tale.

Martin sat down for an interview in his Montreal hotel suite, highlights:

Q. How could anybody without a warped mind see comedy in Silas Marner?

A. It's a little sick, I guess. I think you can take almost any great story and twist it and find humour in it. So much of comedy is built on our tragedies. It made me feel better when I discovered that Shakespeare was lifting stories from the Romans. I guess it was OK for me to lift Silas Marner.

Q. How long have you been writing?

A. In 1968, I started writing for the Smothers



Steve Martin in the film Father Of The Bride

Brothers Television Show. Then I wrote a lot of my stand-up material. I started writing films in the early '80s. And I've written a couple of plays.

Q. There are some pretty heavy dramatics in A Simple Twist Of Fate. Does that come easy to you?

A. I always felt I was acting when I was doing comedy. I've done a lot of semiserious roles like Father Of The Bride and Parenthood. I feel it's comfortable on me.

Q. Your early films were mostly comedy-driven, with small amounts of character. Did it take time to develop more depth?

A. Yes, that comes with experience. ...It's a learning process. Tom Hanks has done the same thing. I think he has developed into such a great actor. He started with rather silly movies like Bachelor Party. You see people going from film to film getting better and better. Finally, he just wiped everybody out with his performance in Forrest Gump.

Q. When did you first realise you were funny?

A. I could never quite accept that I'm funny; therefore I have to develop it and work at it. At a very young age I realised I wanted to try and be funny. I was probably 5 or 6. I'd watch movies on TV

and go to school and try to imitate what I saw. Only later did I realise I could create it or be original with it.

Q. When did you realise you could make a living from it?

A. I've always made a living from it, from at least age 17 on. I never had any non-show-business jobs. My first job was at the Birdcage Theatre in Knott's Berry Farm for \$2 a show. But we did four shows a day. That gave me great training.

I lived in Orange County (Calif.) during my teens, and I haunted those places. I saw Wally Boag at the Golden Horseshoe in Disneyland hundreds of times. My fantasy was that he would be ill one day, and they'd ask this 12-year-old kid to get up and do the show. It never happened.

Q. You had a fairly angst-free childhood in Orange County. Did that have some influence in avoiding the bitterness that marks much of today's stand-up comedy?

A. I'm sure it did. As a kid I saw Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, Jerry Lewis and Abbott and Costello coming through the tube, bringing happiness and lightness and joy. And in the case of Laurel and Hardy, bringing great pathos with it. That's what I wanted to do.

France honours painter who won renown for friends

By Irwin Arief
Reuter

PARIS — A century after his death, France has finally decided to hold its first retrospective exhibition of an impressionist painter better known for winning recognition for his friends than for his own work.

Gustave Caillebotte, arts patron and artist, used his wealth during his lifetime and his will after his death to push France into exhibiting impressionist works for the first time in the face of resistance from the establishment of the day.

Caillebotte, who died 100 years ago aged 46, is the last of the impressionist school to have a retrospective of his works in his own country.

That raises the question of what motivated the national museums of France to assemble 116 Caillebotte paintings and drawings and display them at Paris' Grand Palais from last Friday until Jan 9 next year.

To put it crudely, is it worth a visit?

The answer, say the critics, is "maybe".

"One cannot avoid, even if it is embarrassing and even unenlightening, raising the question of whether Caillebotte was 'as good' as the other impressionists," American art critic Kirk Varnedoe writes in the catalogue.

"In short... the answer is 'no'." Varnedoe con-

cludes. "Caillebotte possessed neither the drawing talent of Degas nor the skill in colour of Monet, and the ground he covered was less extensive than that of his fellow artists."

"Nonetheless, in a painting-to-painting comparison... I would judge any of his major works... to be more important, original and fertile than the totality of the works of Pissarro, than most of Renoir's and a good number of Monet's from the same period."

Though some of his paintings are quite well known, Caillebotte remains obscure compared to fellow impressionists such as Cezanne, Degas, Manet, Monet and Renoir, who helped redefine the rules of painting from the 1860s onwards.

They outraged the art world by breaking down forms into pure colours and laying these down stroke by stroke on the canvas rather than mixing them on a palette.

Caillebotte was an unsung hero of the impressionists' hard-fought campaign for acceptance. Finding their works banned by Paris' official salon, in 1863 they began putting on their own shows, called the salon of the rejected.

Caillebotte played a crucial behind-the-scenes role in keeping the group together.

When its members argued among themselves,

he patched over their differences. When they ran short of money, he rented gallery space, bought frames and hung the paintings.

He also bought some of their best works for himself.

Moved by the death of a younger brother, he wrote his will at the age of 28, leaving his collection to the state on condition that the works be shown in the most exclusive museums and not hidden away in the nation's attics.

Resistance initially was fierce. But three years after Caillebotte's death in 1894, Renoir, who was the executor of his estate, obtained an agreement for their display in the Luxembourg Museum, then France's top modern art museum.

Today the collection hangs in the French capital's Musee d'Orsay.

Many of the Caillebotte works going on display at the Grand Palais have rarely been seen in public, having been loaned from private collections.

The best-known of them offer a stark view of "modern life" in Paris near the end of the 19th century, made alluring by soft colour and stunning detail.

Finely dressed ladies and gentlemen parade across an elegant Parisian square in a downpour, umbrellas over their heads and blank stares on their faces.

Smoking kills 6 people every minute — study

LONDON (AP) — Deaths from cigarettes are likely to more than triple over the next quarter century to 20 every minute around the world, scientists warn in a new global survey.

The findings are in a book, *Mortality From Smoking In Developed Countries 1950-2000*, published Tuesday by scientists at Britain's Imperial Cancer Research Fund, the World Health Organisation and the American Cancer Society.

"Worldwide smoking is already killing 3 million

people each year, and this number is increasing," Richard Peto, a researcher at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, said at a recent news conference.

"In most countries, the worst is yet to come. If current smoking patterns persist, then by the time the young smokers of today reach middle or old age, there will be about 10 million deaths a year from tobacco — one death every three seconds," Mr. Peto said.

The new survey provides the most comprehensive analysis of the

world's smokers, describing trends in smoking-related deaths since the 1950s and forecasting deaths into the next century. A previous study by the same authors two years ago covered the 1960s through the 1990s.

The new book covers 45 countries, 15 more than the previous study. The additional nations are from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Sixty million deaths have been caused by smoking since the 1950s, the investigators estimate. They predict smoking will

kill about 10 million people a year by 2020, the vast majority in developing countries where the habit continues to attract young women.

"Smoking is like no other hazard. It will kill one in two smokers eventually," Dr. Alan Lopez of the World Health Organisation, a co-author of the study, told reporters.

Dr. Ichiro Kawachi, an assistant professor of health and social behaviour at the Harvard School of Public Health, said the authors "have made a very good stab" at

predicting smoking deaths, within the limits of the available data.

"If anything, I think their predictions are fairly conservative and an underestimation," he said in a telephone interview.

Investigators were unable to acquire smoking statistics from every country, which would allow the most precise estimates.

Instead, they compared data on lung-cancer death rates among American non-smokers to the lung-cancer death rate in each country to get an estimate of the number of smokers

in a nation. They used other data from the American Cancer Society to estimate how many smokers would die of various other smoking-related causes, such as heart disease.

The researchers said they used lung-cancer rates as the yardstick "because in developed countries, lung cancer is so closely related to smoking and so seldom caused by any other factor among non-smokers."

According to the report, 10 per cent of middle-age British men

will die from smoking by the time they are 35 to 69 years old. In Poland, 20 per cent of men are doomed to die from smoking, the researchers predict.

In Spain, where women began smoking in the 1970s, the lung cancer rate among women remains low. But Mr. Peto said lung cancer is increasing and will kill millions of Spanish women in the next decades.

Mr. Peto said he hoped the survey would encourage governments to enforce stringent anti-

smoking policies, such as banning cigarette advertisements or raising cigarette prices.

In addition to lung cancer, smoking also increases the risk of cancer of the mouth, larynx, oesophagus, kidney and bladder. Smokers are also more likely than non-smokers to die of heart attacks and strokes.

Judith Hatton, a researcher at Forest, a British organisation for smokers' rights, called the statistics unreliable. The Tobacco Institute in Washington declined to comment.

Common food preservatives found to boost levels of natural cancer fighter

NEW YORK (AP) — Two widely used food preservatives boosted levels of a natural cancer fighter in laboratory animals and appear to do the same thing in humans, a researcher reported.

Advocates of natural foods have long decried the use of preservatives, but Dr. Andrew Dannenberg of Cornell Medical College found that the preservatives BHA and BHT "revved up" the gene for an enzyme that helps destroy carcinogens

before they trigger tumors.

When the genes are cranked up, they produce more of the enzyme, providing better protection against cancer-causing substances in the environment, Dr. Dannenberg reported at the international conference on cancer prevention at Rockefeller University in New York.

BHA and BHT are synthetic additives used as preservatives in cookies, crackers and a wide variety

of other foods.

The results do not mean that foods should be pumped up with even more preservatives, he said. The findings are important because they uncover a cancer prevention mechanism that appears to be part of the explanation for the well-known anti-cancer properties of broccoli, cauliflower and brussels sprouts.

"They are amazing vegetables," Dr. Dannenberg said. "They have an

amazing array of anti-cancer compounds."

His research shows that at least part of the effect of those compounds comes from revving up the same gene affected by BHA and BHT.

The gene produces an enzyme with the name UDP-Glucuronosyltransferase, or UGT. The study found elevated levels of the enzyme in the liver, kidneys and small intestines of rats fed higher doses of BHA and BHT than are normally found in

foods, Dr. Dannenberg said.

He then found preliminary evidence that the substances do the same thing in humans. Dr. Dannenberg said he has also found that sulforaphane, an anti-cancer agent recently isolated in broccoli, exerts its action partly in the same way, by revving up the gene for UGT.

In a separate animal study, Dr. Dannenberg found that a widely prescribed anti-ulcer drug called prilosec also appears

to protect against cancer by causing genes to turn up their production of enzymes.

The results appear at a time when researchers have become widely convinced of the value of fruits and vegetables in preventing cancer, but have made little headway at figuring out exactly why that's true.

"I think it's going to be decades before we sort this out," said Dr. Walter Willett of the Harvard

School of Public Health, a leading authority on nutrition and cancer. "But this doesn't mean you can't do anything. You can eat more fruits and vegetables."

One of the problems is that many people avoid the foods with the most potent anti-cancer effects, he said. Those include not only broccoli, brussels sprouts and cauliflower — the so-called cruciferous vegetables — but also spinach, kale and collards, which

are rich in folic acid, another potent anti-cancer fighter, Dr. Willett said.

The National Cancer Institute is conducting more than 20 studies of diet and cancer, many focusing on chemical relatives of Vitamin A called Retinoids, said Dr. Lee Wattenberg of the University of Minnesota.

Those studies may ultimately show that such feared illnesses as breast cancer are preventable, Dr. Wattenberg said.

Death on the streets just part of life for Moscow paramedics

By Elif Kaban
Reuter

MOSCOW — It's six a.m. in downtown Moscow. Alexei, an ambulance paramedic, lights a cigarette, jokes with his friends, plays with a stray dog in the yard and walks to the ambulance to deal with the first emergency of the day.

The call came 45 minutes ago from a weeping mother who said her 25-

year-old schizophrenic son was in a coma after taking an overdose of tablets.

Alexei is nonchalant. "The boy took the tablets yesterday. It makes no difference if we're half an hour late."

It's nearly seven a.m. by the time Alexei boards the rickety Latvian-made ambulance, ironically known in Russian as "skoraya pomoshch" — "quick help."

The smell of morning

vodka is fresh on the driver's breath. The siren is not working and the driver is in no hurry. Within minutes, the ambulance is stuck in rush-hour traffic.

Russian government officials may be congratulating themselves on better economic indicators and a relaxation of political tension, but health care is getting worse.

For decades, cradle-to-grave care was the right of every Soviet citizen and

there is still no shortage of qualified doctors. But keeping up standards is becoming difficult as state subsidies dry up and costs soar.

The homeless who die on the streets — "bomzhi" — sometimes lie for hours before being picked up by paramedics.

One day, a dead woman lay unattended for a day in central Moscow a few hundred metres from the government headquarters.

A police officer answering an emergency call said: "Call the ambulance. There's not much we can do if she's dead."

Ambulances were on strike that day and the body lay there until late afternoon, with passers-by and cars taking little notice.

"Frankly, the dead are not our priority any more," says Alexei. "We don't have enough doctors, we don't have enough ambulances. Those we have are Soviet-made mini-vans converted into ambulances. They're not equipped properly."

The schizophrenic is Alexei's second client of the day. The previous one was a middle-aged woman who fell from a fourth-floor balcony.

Alexei's crew took the woman to hospital. They then rolled up the blood-covered plastic sheet she was wrapped in and threw it to the back of the ambulance, possibly for further use.

The back of the ambulance has the sickly smell of death. Blood is drying on the floor. "We've carried four dead in the past four hours," Alexei says. He says they have no time to disinfect the vehicles afterwards.

The young schizophrenic lies twitching on the floor of a tiny flat. Alexei

produces a syringe with an apparently unsterilised needle and injects the boy with morphine.

"He will survive," Alexei tells the distressed mother. He and the driver wrap up the skinny youth and take him away. No one tells the mother where her son is being taken.

The dead are the biggest problem, however. Doctors of the French medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres say they occasionally find bodies of homeless people dumped outside their Moscow offices.

Sasha, the administrator in charge at the ambulance station where Alexei's crew is based, says it has been known for the bodies of homeless people to be left on the streets for days.

"Last week, someone called the police to report an unconscious man lying just off the road. The police went to check it three hours later and decided he was drunk," he says.

"Then someone called them again. Four hours later, the police called us. Our crew went there. The man had been dead at least six hours. Police aren't bothered with the dead any more."

Vadim says ambulance crew deposit the bodies of

homeless people at Moscow's morgues.

A senior doctor said the morgue that covers an area known as the three railway stations in central Moscow takes in an average 10 to 15 homeless people a week who have died on the streets.

At the morgue, several bodies were left on the floor. There was a terrible stench from others strewn along corridors.

Staff said the bodies of unidentified homeless people must be kept in storage for one year so that relatives can find them.

But privately they said bodies were buried in mass graves in plastic bags after a few months because of lack of space.

Moscow's health services are in a state of decay. Staff morale is low.

A qualified ambulance doctor with 15 years' experience earns 360,000 roubles (\$150) a month.

Doctors say drug abuse is common, with some hospital staff using official facilities to make drugs for sale on the streets.

A senior administrator at a state clinic on the outskirts of Moscow said he had asked the police to investigate thefts of morphine and other drugs from ambulance supplies.

"At least two of my doctors are stealing morphine," said the doctor, asking not to be identified because he said he had received death threats for tipping off the police.

"Drug addiction is widespread among our staff. I think every ambulance station in Moscow has at least one drug abuser."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

INTERNATIONAL CUISINE
By Dorothy B. Martin

- ACROSS
1. Fragrant
 5. Close-mouthed
 9. Cucumber
 14. Porridge
 18. Arabian chief
 19. Enormously salty
 20. Lamp (naked)
 21. Rancid trail
 22. Breakfast
 25. Punctured
 26. Breakfast
 27. Sausage sound
 28. Hammer of law
 29. Certain person
 30. Slightly moist
 31. Organism modified by environment
 32. Throat
 33. Throat
 34. Christiana
 37. Lost
 38. Swords

- DOWN
1. Tasty
 2. Cupid
 3. One of seventy-two
 4. Vermorous
 5. Homed snake
 6. Cheese
 7. Whistles
 8. Talking bird
 9. In the past
 10. Pay (the cost)
 11. Hungry
 12. German song
 13. Three-way pipe
 14. Feller
 15. Chickadee
 16. Drowsiness
 17. Asphyx
 18. Breaker hurt
 20. Extinct bird

Diagramless, 19x19
By Harold B. Counts

- ACROSS
1. Immortal
 2. River duck
 3. Time of day
 4. Moon
 5. Enormous
 6. Lift the spirits
 7. Responsibility
 8. Young pair
 9. One who is due
 10. Musical note
 11. Taster
 12. Upward
 13. Taster
 14. Chief

- DOWN
1. Yells
 2. Rich case
 3. Holiday times
 4. Moon
 5. Enormous
 6. Lift the spirits
 7. Responsibility
 8. Young pair
 9. One who is due
 10. Musical note
 11. Taster
 12. Upward
 13. Taster
 14. Chief

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

- ACROSS
1. Immortal
 2. River duck
 3. Time of day
 4. Moon
 5. Enormous
 6. Lift the spirits
 7. Responsibility
 8. Young pair
 9. One who is due
 10. Musical note
 11. Taster
 12. Upward
 13. Taster
 14. Chief

- DOWN
1. Yells
 2. Rich case
 3. Holiday times
 4. Moon
 5. Enormous
 6. Lift the spirits
 7. Responsibility
 8. Young pair
 9. One who is due
 10. Musical note
 11. Taster
 12. Upward
 13. Taster
 14. Chief

Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Happy children at summer camp listen to young counselor telling scary dog stories.
2. Modern bread machines take the fun and challenges out of baking. I need to know!
3. Zany cryptographer tried constructing a puzzle so tough even he couldn't solve it!
4. Why do we consider lechargo pigs in their sty as pen pals?

1. BY MY ONLY TAXUS UPUM
BY MYOYL AM NIGADS
NXX TBAGUDYD WY GNL
UM WUD PNTUOM.

— By Ed Huddleston

2. CUDDENK CUUKSVND
CRGAV AN MUSIK
CARGVIN CARIN AN
CARVING.

— By Frank N. Stein

3. MOVER DAMPE CADYRBE
BLAWDLME KVVW VWC
AW VTB SCRLY TBSL
KRLMORB.

— By Adam Christopher

4. LUNYX CANDIE FCVC
LBDAG. TOYS GUEB
ZOASV AZ TAIL HPAS.
GYPR?

— By Duane B. McGogy

Doctors takes interest in a Japanese brain therapy

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. medical community is taking a new look at a therapy used in Japan to treat brain tumours, and now more U.S. research is in the works.

Boron-Neutron Capture Therapy (BNCT) — in which doctors cluster boron in a tumour and then blast it with a boron-targeted neutron beam — was created in the United States to treat a deadly tumour called glioblastoma multiforme.

But its U.S. testing in the 1950's was unsuccessful and a Japanese medical student, the late Hiroshi Hatanaka, brought the idea back home with him, treating 120 patients and marking a 20 per cent suc-

cess rate.

Now, some U.S. experts are saying it is time to give BNCT the kind of research attention they believe it deserves.

Doctor Michael Werner of Wyoming urged Congress to push for bringing the therapy to the United States after it saved his own life.

Dr. Werner, who paid \$60,000 for the treatment, said "Americans need this — fast."

And U.S. physicians are planning to treat patients in two nuclear reactors next month under a special Food and Drug Administration (FDA) compassionate-use clause. FDA officials are cooperating with scientists to facilitate the job.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. This is the name given to gypsies in Italy.
2. Poland.
3. FEBRUARY was originally the Roman month of purification prior to the new year, from the Latin "Februus"; "I purify by sacrifice."

APRIL derives from the Latin "aperire", to open, referring to the month when buds and blossoms open.

4. In tropical America and the Southern United States, The Black Widow is one of the most poisonous of all the spiders, the female having a deadly bite which is not always counteracted by a person being given anti-poison serum... so beware the BLACK WIDOW!

5. Hippocrates, the great Greek physician, was born on the island of Cos, off the coast of Asia Minor, in about 460 B.C. His medical methods were soundly based on observation and logical reasoning, but his greatest contribution to medicine was his oath, which, although not law, still forms the basis of the ethical code or ideal for medical men.

Here is an excerpt from this oath: "Whatever house I enter, I will go into for the benefit of the sick, refraining from all wrong doing or corruption, and especially from any act of seduction, of male or female, of bond or free. Whatever things I see or hear concerning the life of men, in my attendance on the sick or even apart therefrom, which ought not to be spoken abroad, I will keep silence thereon, counting such things as sacred secrets."

PUZZLES

ANACROSTIC

- | | A | B | C | D | E |
|----|---|---------|-------|------|---|
| 1. | A | MIRAGE | GRIME | MIRE | G |
| 2. | R | STUPOR | SPOUT | STOP | U |
| 3. | S | SELDOM | LEMON | MOLE | N |
| 4. | E | REFINE | INFER | RIFE | N |
| 5. | N | REKNOWN | OWNER | WORN | E |
| 6. | A | REMAIN | MINER | MIEN | R |
| 7. | L | STAPLE | PASTE | TAPE | S |

Crown Prince: Search for security in Mideast will be futile unless socio-economic issues are addressed

"The absence of democratic processes has forced the opposition to articulate itself in the so-called religious fundamentalist mode"

Following is the full text of an address His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy on Sept. 25. The address under the title "The Security Dilemma in an Era of Arab-Israeli Peace-Making," was delivered on behalf of Prince Hassan by Minister of Information Jawad Anani.

OUR KIND invitation to address this distinguished gathering informed me that this year's policy conference would focus on four areas under its overall theme of Security Challenges in an era of Arab-Israeli Peace-making. These areas were defined as follows:

Firstly: A preliminary assessment of security and the challenges facing a post-peace-agreement Middle East.

Secondly: How much of the old Middle East is likely to survive into "the new Middle East"?

Thirdly: What regional problems submerged by the Arab-Israeli conflict may emerge in the future?

And fourthly: What new opportunities may present themselves.

Let me state at once that, for all of us who are at the moment heavily engaged in the on-going phase of peace-making, these four areas are extremely topical and important. In the next few days, I will be meeting with Foreign Minister Peres in Washington, and we can jointly help to advance the peace process along the path of justice.

In view of the extensive knowledge and expertise presented here today by distinguished guests of minor policy makers, scholars, diplomats and journalists from America and abroad, I am tempted to say that I should be listening rather than speaking.

The peace process would benefit from any way, perhaps, is very little that I can add to what you have already heard during your weekend treat, but I am sure I can add a great deal from you.

That is why I will try to be as brief as possible in presenting thoughts that I would like to share with you.

As I looked at the four areas of your discussions when I received your invitation, many thoughts crossed my mind. Two points, in the first and fourth areas, struck me most. These were referred to as the "other challenges" (that is other than security), and the "new opportunities". Evidently, all peace-makers are deeply engaged in the theme of our annual conference.

Security challenges are continuously on the mind of policy makers in Jordan as well as

in Israel, Syria, Lebanon and among the Palestinians. But I think that for all of U.S. who are currently engaged in building a better future in the Middle East, it is vital that we spare sufficient time to consider those other challenges and new opportunities. Let me explain what I mean by this.

I do not intend to belabour or overstate the case of what has been termed as the "low politics" of transnational social and economic relations as compared with the "high politics" of military security. But I think it is abundantly clear that the search for security in the Middle East will be futile if we do not focus sufficiently on the socio-economic areas of "soft security". In fact, as we make progress along the path of peace, our ability to meet the security challenges will become increasingly dependent on dealing effectively with those non-military components of security.

It is essential that, as peace-makers, we continuously keep reminding ourselves of this fact. Personally, as a Jordanian, I tend to be pre-occupied with the long list of security challenges in the current peace-making era. These include the need to delimit and to demarcate our borders. The need to ensure security along these borders once they have been demarcated. Incidentally, it is worth mentioning that Jordan's total land and coast boundaries are 26 per cent longer than Israel's. We have a 1002 miles while Israel (whose GNP is about 14 times ours) has 795 miles. This increases the challenge of restructuring our defence forces so that they can, with our limited resources, effectively safeguard the peace once it is achieved. This task has to be done against the worrying regional phenomena of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missile delivery systems. There is also a requirement to deal with the extremists' threats to our democratisation process. In addition there is the necessity to meet the threats to the economic gains so far achieved in our economic reform programme. Lurking in the background are the pressures on the Jordanian dinar and on our foreign exchange associ-

ated with the uncertainties of the transition towards peace in the Palestinian territories. The list is long and goes on.

It is true to say that every decision maker in the region faces, or is pre-occupied with, a comparable list of threats to his or her country. Policy-makers looking at the region from the outside probably ponder over a similar list. In considering the security dilemma in an era of Arab-Israeli peace-making what readily comes to mind is that policy responses in this context are probably much more important than threat identification. Or stated differently, it may be considered that the long list of threats is almost self-evident, ranging as it does from the threats of extremism, proliferation, poverty, unemployment and water, to the need to restructure military forces. In this respect, quite a great deal of "the old Middle East" can be expected to survive into "the new Middle East". But where a lot of work is needed is in the area of effective policy responses to these threats especially at the regional level.

A "new Middle East" requires new thinking. This is needed not only outside the region but also from within. A recent in-depth evaluation by the European Union in Brussels has concluded that the performance of all the economies of the region (including Israel) has been in reality a failure. Two factors have been the mainstay of the economies of the region from the Gulf to the Mediterranean: oil revenues and foreign aid. A "new Middle East" requires a new engine of growth and development if it is to become a contributing member in the new global economy. What the Brussels study did not say was that the oil revenues and aid of the past decades, which amounted to trillions of dollars, were largely squandered on arms in a futile search for security by the different states. In fact many ended up with a heavy debt overhang as a result of that arms race.

I do not want to overstate the case. Of course, by certain criteria, development and growth have occurred to varying degrees throughout the region. There are many, for example, in Jordan who are justifiably proud of the economic achievements of the country since 1948. So is the case in Israel. But what is more important is the structure of the economy, its dependence on foreign resources, the extensive role of the government in the economic life of the country, and

the impact of its security structure on its economic structure. In these terms, the judgement of Brussels may be considered as being not too harsh.

The issue of income disparities is also of great relevance within such a regional context. Though disparities exist in many regions of the world, they hardly reach anywhere near comparable extremes (of 20 to 1) as in the Middle East. The prevalence of non-participatory types of governance (or the absence of democratic forms), the inter-connection between socio-economic stagnation and extremism and the inadequate investment in human resources should also be taken into consideration as indicators of development. All the preceding factors represent some of the regional problems submerged by the Arab-Israeli conflict that may reemerge forcefully in future. Regarding extremism, it has been remarked that hardly any secular opposition to authority exists in the Islamic World. The absence of democratic processes has forced the opposition to articulate itself in the so-called religious fundamentalist mode or fashion.

After a century of conflict, the era of Arab-Israeli peace-making will probably be rather protracted. It is, therefore, essential to consider security challenges within a dynamic context. There are many (including myself), who have speculated about the possibilities of dealing positively with those human, social and economic challenges facing a post-peace-agreement Middle East. The Middle East multilateral peace negotiations already include five working groups dealing with refugees, regional economic development, water, environment, in addition to the regional security and arms control group. The architecture of the Multilaterals can be considered as reminiscent of the Helsinki process with its three baskets of security, human and economic issues. In looking ahead, it is even possible to speculate about a CSCEM (Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Middle East), and to talk about cooperative security, or a security community in the region to promote positive interdependence and to meet the challenges of a post-peace-agreement Middle East. It is also possible to re-imagine the Middle East by drawing inspiration from such other models as the EU (in Europe), NAFTA (in North America), MERCOSUR (in South America) and APEC (in the Pacific Basin).

Such thinking reflects, among many analysts, an increased awareness of the urgency of considering the interaction between the security dimension and the other challenges of the regional political economy in the Middle East.

A detailed examination of the relevance or merits and drawbacks of such models is beyond the scope of my talk here today. However, it is extremely vital to keep in mind two facts in this regard. Firstly, in looking at the analysis of experts, a lacuna exists in the form of what scholars refer to as the split in the field of international relations between security studies and international political economy. One scholar, Beverly Crawford, has recently put it as follows: "the connection between international economic interdependence and national security has not been carefully explored in the modern U.S. security studies literature... Despite the growing awareness of the overlap between the spheres of politics and economics and the growing intellectual interest in international political economy, the spheres of security and economics were considered as separate and distinct areas."

This scholar goes on to explain that this split was a result of the need to demonstrate among the advanced liberal democracies the possibility of economic interaction not driven by security concerns. In addition, security studies concentrated on the cold war during which interdependence among the conflicting parties was low. There is extensive literature on the interaction between industrial power, natural resources and great power grand strategy; and the issue of oil and international security has been a major item on the American foreign policy agenda since the 1970s. Yet this scholar reminds us that this literature has suffered from the split between 'security studies' and 'international political economy'.

The second fact that should be remembered in considering lessons from other regions, is that economic cooperation and increased interdependence generate their own set of frictions and contradictions among allies. Therefore, how realistic is it to talk about cooperation and interdependence among previous adversaries in the Middle East who are not yet allies as the case is in Europe or the Pacific Basin?

My purpose here is not to sound a negative note or to

cast doubt on the viability of reimagining a "new Middle East". Nor is it to imply that we should not aim at promoting economic cooperation in our region, because little is known about the connection between economic interdependence and security, and because economic cooperation generates its own set of conflicts. My objective is to stress that a great deal of care should be taken as we move ahead. It is not enough to have a vision, a detailed and practical plan of action should be evolved. That is why Jordan is energetically participating in the work of the multilaterals. I am looking forward to personally head our delegation to the Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit in Casablanca at the end of October. Jordan is also considering hosting in Amman the next meeting of the Regional Economic Development Working Group of the multilaterals. In all these efforts aimed at promoting regional cooperation, it should be emphasized that security issues cannot be resolved purely by economic means, just as economic problems will not be resolved by security arrangements. A balanced approach is required.

The current stage of the Jordan-Israel bilateral negotiations serves to illustrate the point. Several meetings have been held in Wadi Araba, the Dead Sea area and Tiberias focusing on the issues of borders and water. In fact, the Washington Declaration signed in the White House between His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin at the end of last July emphasised these two priorities of boundaries and water. They figure prominently among the items on the agreed common agenda between both our countries. But as soon as our peace teams got down to business, the need for adding the security dimension became evident. Thus borders, security, and water represent a triangle that currently preoccupies our peace-making. The satisfactory resolution of these priorities entails striking a balance or arriving at an equilibrium that satisfies legal, political and developmental considerations.

While these efforts continue at the bilateral level, parallel work proceeds at the Trilateral Jordan-U.S.-Israel level dealing with such priorities as the concept of the integrated development of the Jordan Rift Valley. Immense opportunities present themselves for the development of that vital area. Many

leading multinational companies and consultants have shown an active interest in participating in these projects. In the trilateral discussions, Jordan has stressed the need for an agreed terms of reference for the Jordan Rift Valley development prior to the commencement of work. Both the U.S. and Israel have endorsed our proposal. An approach that integrates human resources development within the concept of the Jordan Rift Valley is one practical way for delivering the peace dividend to the peoples of our region.

Human resource development at the transnational level can also help achieve the right equilibrium within the land, water and security triangle.

In Jordan it has often been said that democratisation, peace-making and market-oriented economic reform represent our national agenda for the 1990s. This is perhaps the best approach for dealing with the challenges and utilising the opportunities of a post-peace-agreement Middle East. Last October, after my meeting with Foreign Minister Peres and President Clinton in the White House, I had the privilege of addressing this priority of the Washington Institute. During the discussion, some of your participants made it clear that they were alarmed by Jordan's decision to carry out parliamentary elections as

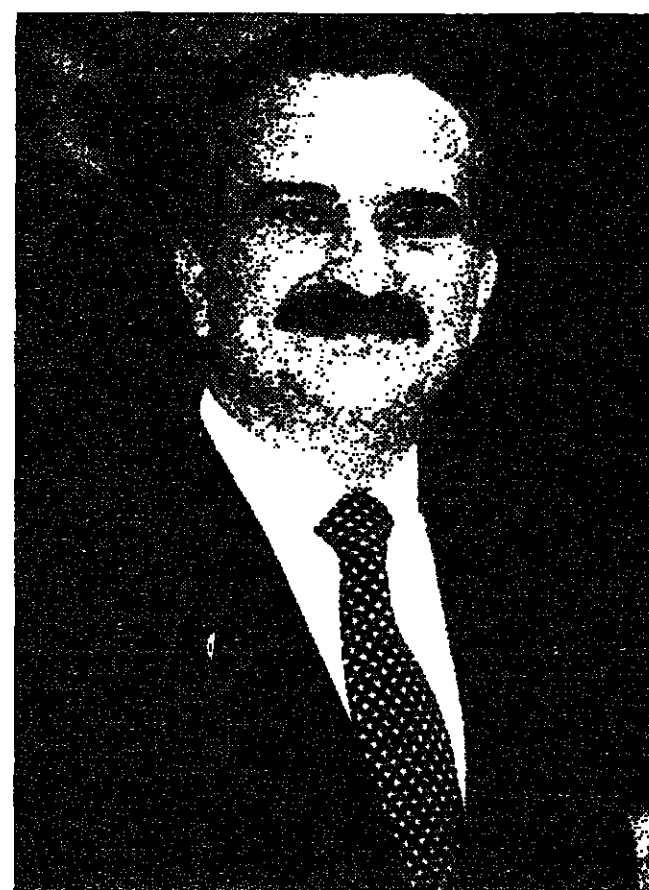
previously scheduled. Their view was that voting at that point would be wrong because the tangible results of Israeli withdrawal were not clear. They were worried by a possible extremists' landslide. A postponement, within the constitutional prerogatives of His Majesty, we were told, would reduce the chances of such an outcome as it will give time for the benefits of the Israel-PLO declaration of principles to emerge, thus weakening the appeal of the enemies of peace. I said at that time:

"We have to look at the question of political participation in the context of security, and for us security is participation."

As you know, our elections were held on time and the people of Jordan spoke their word in an admirable atmosphere of civic responsibility and calm.

That discussion, and the remarks of the experts about dealing with threats or enemies, reminded me of the vision of Abraham Lincoln during the U.S. civil war. During an official reception, he was sharply criticised for referring kindly to the Southerners as mistaken people, instead of thinking about destroying them. "The Little Brown Book of Anecdotes" tells us that Lincoln replied by saying:

"Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?"



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Review exposes problems

(Continued from page 1)

courses, "given to trainees not on the basis of qualifications, need or interest, (but) on the basis of personal relationships."

Hans Dietrich Klee from German radio, in another working paper, emphasised the significance of the democratisation process and the role of newspapers in the field of educating the public with the objective of achieving justice and freedom.

Mr. Klee underlined the role of journalists in formulating public opinion and said that this requires that journalists be in a continuous process of training so that they are familiar with the latest developments in the profession, particularly in communications and related technology.

The German expert called for training and education for all those involved in journalism as a profession.

Jochen Raffelberg, another German expert, discussed the ethics of journalism in terms of approach to news and presentation, objectivity, accuracy and reliability.

Jamil Nimri, a Jordanian journalist and former chief editor of a political party's newspaper, reviewed the Jordanian experience with the ethics of the profession.

Mohammad Masharqa, a Jordanian columnist, said in a working paper that there was little hope of positive turns in the Jordanian media unless there were political reforms that gave more power to political parties and the media themselves.

Ghadeer Taher, also a

Jordanian journalist, asserted that the Jordanian media were not doing its job of informing the people. As a result, Ms. Taher said, people were forced to turn to non-Jordanian media — newspaper, radio and television — to get better information.

Ms. Taher said newspaper establishments were reaping huge financial benefits from their operations but were doing little to improve the quality of their news. She said the newspaper management was spending very little funds on their staff for property training their journalists or to equip them with modern technology.

Ms. Taher also accused editors as well as reporters of complacency and hiding behind "national security" as an excuse for ignoring altogether or playing down issues of major importance and significance to the public.

Rabin threatens to suspend talks

(Continued from page 1)

return of the Golan Heights to Syria, the organisers said.

Far right-wing MK Moshe Felet of the Yehud Party was among those on the one-day fast.

The organisers claim 200,000 Israelis have been to the spectacular cliff-top site at Gamla to show their support to the group who are taking water and vegetable soup.

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni criticised the protesters. "The people living on the plateau must understand that they have a

Arafat welcomes move

(Continued from page 1)

choice to relinquish its mandate over the Waqf institutions in the West Bank except those in Arab Jerusalem, whose holy shrines will remain under Jordanian guardianship," he said.

He said that the 100 or so employees at the Islamic courts in the West Bank will be entitled to full compensation or pension like other Jordanian employees.

A Jordanian government statement issued Tuesday said Jordan had decided to "include the Waqf (religious property) and religious courts in the West Bank, apart from Jerusalem," in the decision to cut legal and administrative links between Jordan and the West Bank in 1988.

Jordan has continued to administer the Muslim holy sites in the West Bank and Jerusalem despite breaking off ties with the West Bank.

The statement said Jordan would maintain its traditional role in the "administration and protection of the holy places in Jerusalem against any danger and to avoid creating a void" in the management of the sites.

A senior Jordanian official told AFP Wednesday Amman "cannot give in on the issue of Jerusalem. That would mean giving up an Arab right for Israel's benefit, since the Palestinian Authority cannot take charge of the religious sites in the holy city now."

The PLO had been forced to "give in to Israeli demands and it excluded Jerusalem from its recent negotiations with Israel in Oslo," the official said.

More than 120,000 Jews live in settlements scattered

Israel sends mixed signals

(Continued from page 1)

ago, Mr. Rabin froze building of about 10,000 housing units in the territories and allowed it to continue on an equal number with foundations already laid. Land allocation was also frozen in many areas.

Building was permitted to continue unabated in Maale Adumim, Betar, and Givat Zeev settlements surrounding Jerusalem and in Arab East Jerusalem itself, occupied in the 1967 war.

The freeze helped win Israel \$10 billion in loan guarantees from the United States — which had described settlements as obstacles to peace — to help finance a wave of Jewish immigration from the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Ben-Eliezer's spokeswoman Ofra Preuss said a planning and building permit was approved for "about 700 housing units" at Givat Tal, part of Alfei Menashe settlement three kilometres inside the West Bank opposite Israel's narrow waist.

She said it would be a private, not government project.

A senior aide to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said on Monday Mr. Rabin's latest move violated the year-old PLO-Israel interim peace accord providing Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Mr. Ben-Eliezer said he took the decision on Alfei Menashe two months ago unrelated to the next stage of the peace deal.

More than 120,000 Jews live in settlements scattered

among some two million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel Radio said Mr. Rabin promised left-wing ministers at a cabinet meeting on Wednesday that he would rethink the decision, but for now planning would apparently go forward on the 700-unit housing project at Alfei Menashe settlement.

Building and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer affirmed Israel's "claim" to some areas of the West Bank as part of the Jewish state.

It is certain that the issue of this settlement (Alfei Menashe) certainly is — from our (Israel's) point of view at least — is not under dispute concerning what is connected to Israel," he told Israel Radio.

He added that building curbs might be lifted on other West Bank settlements near the "seam" — the pre-1967 war border with Israel.

are negotiated and settled to the satisfaction of all," he said. "There would be no point in conducting peace talks otherwise. But a peace treaty has to have content, and we are at present building that content. We do not want to ignore difficult problems now and hope they will resolve themselves at a later date, for we know that a worthwhile treaty must anticipate problems and provide appropriate mechanisms for their resolution."

"The outstanding areas of borders, water, and security must, therefore, be dealt with before any treaty can be signed. We have agreed on some general principles, mechanisms, and modalities in these areas, but in terms of substantive, detailed and sustainable agreements, there is still work to do."

Dr. Anani distinguished between the ingredients for a peace treaty and issues that had to be resolved before a broad regional peace could

800 feared killed in disaster

(Continued from page 1)

were suffering from serious injuries and hypothermia after hours in the chilly Baltic waters.

Rescuers said they would continue searching.

"We will continue with full intensity at least until darkness. I am sceptical (we will find more survivors) but I still have hope," Finnish navy commander Raimo Tiilikainen told a news conference.

"Many of the passengers were certainly in their cabins asleep and as the boat (would have) sunk very quickly it must have been very difficult for many to get out," he added.

"It was all over in half an hour," a survivor in his twenties told Reuters as he arrived at hospital in Turku.

A port spokesman in Tallinn said the Estonia's main engines appeared to have cut out.

Israel may announce pullout

(Continued from page 1)

be achieved. "Some areas which are not solely the concern of Jordan and Israel must be addressed in advance of any comprehensive and viable regional peace. Foremost among these are the issues of refugees and Jerusalem," he said.

Chief negotiator with Jordan Elyakim Rubinstein, who sources say is involved in the quiet top-level negotiations, refused to comment on the existence of quiet talks with Jordan.

When one senior official was asked whether the water issue with Jordan had already been resolved, he replied, "There are exaggerations."

The spokesman, reached by telephone from Moscow, said he doubted the cargo of cars and trucks had shifted. He said: "My understanding is that for some reason the main engines stopped and then the storm could do anything it wants with the ship."

Andres Berg, deputy chairman of the Swedish company Nordstrom Thulin AB, half-owner of the 15,500-tonne ferry along with the Estonian state, said: "We've had reports from the Finnish rescue operation that the main engine had stopped, causing a blackout."

"But that wouldn't in itself cause the ferry to sink. It should be able to drift without engines, even in very rough sea."

In Stockholm, relatives of passengers and crew gathered at the city's Frihamn terminal, where the ferry was due to have docked, anxiously seeking news.

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Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Oct 26/94	Tokyo Oct 26/94
Sterling Pound	1.5798	1.5803
Deutsche Mark	1.5436	1.5421
Swiss Franc	1.2780	1.2769
French Franc	5.2675	5.2652**
Japanese Yen	98.11	98.13
European Currency Unit	1.2385	1.2394**

1200 Per 100

European Opening at 10:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	4.75	5.00	5.37	5.40
Sterling Pound	5.12	5.62	6.00	7.06
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.87	5.00	5.50
Swiss Franc	3.56	3.68	4.06	4.43
French Franc	5.25	5.37	5.66	6.12
Japanese Yen	5.25	5.25	5.31	5.50
European Currency Unit	5.62	5.62	6.06	6.81

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6960	0.6960
Sterling Pound	1.0989	1.1084
Deutsche Mark	0.4508	0.4531
Swiss Franc	0.5450	0.5477
French Franc	0.1321	0.1328
Japanese Yen	0.1086	0.1121
Dutch Guilder	0.4024	0.4044
Swedish Krona	0.0447	0.0449
Italian Lira	0.0447	0.0449
Belgian Franc	0.0447	0.0449

Per 100

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8300	1.8490
Lebanese Lira	0.040750	0.042010
Saudi Riyal	0.1855	0.1871
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3490
Qatari Riyal	0.1900	0.1920
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7870	1.8150
UAE Dirham	0.2725	0.3160
Greek Drachma	0.2725	0.3160
Cypriot Pound	1.3685	1.4950

Per 100

IMF upbeat on economic prospects, warns on inflation

MADRID (Agencies)—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Wednesday set the tone for its 50th anniversary meeting with an upbeat view of world economic prospects, but also called for agile monetary policies to stave off inflation.

The IMF, in its semi-annual World Economic Outlook, said it expected the global economy to grow three per cent this year and 3.5 per cent in 1995 as the industrialised world came out of its deepest recession in half a century.

But it gave a stern warning that governments must avoid the mistakes of the 1980s. They must take steps to control budget deficits or else higher interest rates would lead to high unemployment becoming entrenched.

The IMF forecast 1994 U.S. growth at 3.7 per cent, up from 3.1 per cent in 1993, and 2.5 per cent in 1995. Germany will grow 2.3 per cent and 2.8 per cent after a 1.1 per cent drop last year.

World trade was expected to expand strongly, growing more than seven per cent this year and by six per cent in 1995, well above the five per cent average for the past two decades.

The recovery of world activity and trade became more firmly established during the first half of 1994, the IMF said.

But it said industrialised countries must do more to reduce budget deficits, noting these had risen to 70 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) from only 40 per cent in 1978.

"It is essential to avoid the policy failures of the 1980s by ensuring monetary policy moves to a neutral stance as recovery takes hold and by continuing deficit-cutting efforts," the Washington-based institution said.

The IMF and World Bank sessions begin in earnest this weekend with meetings of finance ministers from the Group of Seven industrial nations, the influential Group of 10, and the Group of 24 developing countries.

The immediate priority at the Madrid meeting is to agree a new allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), the IMF's artificial currency, to cater for the expected growth and resulting extra need for global capital.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus is proposing an issued equivalent to \$50 billion, largely reflecting the financing needs of the former Communist Bloc countries.

Since the last general SDR allocation in 1981, no fewer than 37 countries have joined the IMF, lifting the total to 178. But some rich countries, notably Germany, argue a smaller allocation of \$24 billion is preferable to avoid inflationary pressures.

The major potential beneficiaries of this are the so-called "economies in transition"—the former Eastern Bloc nations—where economic development varies widely.

The report said the decline in growth in these countries is expected to slow markedly next year to minus one per cent from an 8.3 per cent drop in 1994, with central and eastern European economies turning into positive growth.

In most of central Europe—Albania, Poland, Slovenia and the Baltic states—bold economic reforms have created the macro-economic environment for growth. But in Russia and elsewhere, the situation continues to be very difficult.

"Though there has been substantial progress in im-

plementing structural reforms in Russia and some other transition countries there are enormous difficulties yet to be faced," the IMF said.

These countries must intensify fiscal and structural reforms if they are to aspire to growth, the report said. Corruption and crime threaten to undermine support for market reforms, it added, warning that this is dissuading foreign investors.

Developing-country growth will meanwhile average 5.5 per cent this year and next, close to 1992 and 1993 levels and provide a strong contribution to the overall world recovery, it said.

Western hemisphere countries in particular have improved, notably Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Peru. Mexico, where growth faltered in early 1994, will pick up next year now that financial pressures have eased in the wake of August elections.

New growth and financial reform in Asia and Latin America have attracted healthy capital inflows in the 1990s averaging 2.5 per cent of GDP in 1990-93 against 0.4 per cent for 1983-89.

The IMF stressed that industrial countries must take advantage of a "broadening and strengthening" economic upswing to carry out reforms that will improve the working of their economies.

Key countries, including the United States, must act more decisively to cut excessively large budget deficits, which have kept real interest rates high and crowded out private investment for a decade, it said.

They must also free up product and labour markets and maintain "a high degree of price stability" and avert any resurgence of inflation, now at a 30-year low of only 2.5 per cent in the industrial world.

"A key precondition for sustained growth" has thus been restored, the fund said in its half-yearly World Economic Outlook.

Citing an unexpectedly

strong upturn in Europe and signs of a gradual, but still hesitant improvement in Japan, the IMF proclaimed "the end" of a long slowdown which has hurt virtually all countries.

The prospect now is for a 3.1 per cent increase in world output this year and a 3.6 per cent expansion in 1995, the highest rates since 1989.

IMF chief economist Michael Mussa, presenting the report, cited large margins of slack in Europe, and predicted that if policies were right, the recovery "could go some distance, hopefully five or six years."

The report upgraded previous IMF forecasts for 1994 for key European countries including Germany, Britain and France—the first upward revision so far this decade, Mr. Mussa commented.

U.S. growth would remain brisk at 3.7 per cent, and developing countries as a group would continue as locomotives of the world economy, growing by some 5.5 per cent despite a slightly slower Asian performance.

Stressing that "further efforts" by key countries would be needed to promote financial stability and economic prosperity over the medium term, the report said there seemed to be little immediate risk of any general flare-up in inflation.

Several countries had, "appropriately," undertaken "preemptive" interest rate hikes to counter the risk of a resurgence of inflation.

In the United States, where the economy was now "essentially operating at its potential," according to Mr. Mussa, further increases in rates were "needed, and are expected by financial markets" to avert overheating and raising inflationary expectations, the report said.

German rates now appear to be at "broadly appropriate" levels, while in Japan a "relatively easy" monetary policy would help recovery to gather pace and ease upward pressure on the yen.

"Six months ago, the question was how to get recovery started," Mr. Mussa told a news conference. "Now the question is: How do we keep it going and how do we use it wisely?"

Urging governments to avoid past "mistakes," the IMF said the answer was to take advantage of the upswing and actively pursue budget deficit cutting to reverse the upward trend of public debt and promote private saving and investment. Increased structural reform efforts to make economies more flexible are also needed to promote stronger long-term growth and increase economies' capacity to cope with adverse economic shocks.

In Europe, jobless rates would remain high—despite a slight fall from 11.8 per cent this year to 11.5 per cent in 1995—and reforms to make labour markets more flexible are required, while all countries should seek to contain the rise of health spending.

Mr. Mussa said "the key policy question" is how to ensure that recovery would bring down unemployment.

The fund said all countries, in particular Japan, must do more to free up access to their markets, and it is "essential" to secure ratification of the Uruguay Round world trade pact "without delay."

Developing countries, it said, must continue reforming their economies to maintain private investment inflows—some \$130 billion last year—and to restore per capita growth, above all in Africa.

Russia and other economies in transition must seriously tackle inflation and speed up structural reforms to achieve sustainable growth, the IMF also said.

Italian unions call general strike over budget

ROME (R)—Italy's trades unions Wednesday called a four-hour general strike for Oct. 14 after Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's government approved a 1995 deficit-cutting budget that will hit pensions and health.

The strike, which millions of workers are expected to join, was called by leaders of the country's three main union confederations, CIGL, CISL and UIL.

They said demonstrations were also being planned for the same day, a Friday, in all major cities to try to force the government to change the shape of the budget.

"We are holding a general strike to achieve these objectives and not against the government," CISL leader Sergio d'Antoni told reporters. "This is an unfair budget which will hit the weakest hardest," he said.

The proposed budget, which must now go to parliament for approval, was finalised at an all-night cabinet session. It aims to cut next year's deficit by 48 trillion lire (\$32 billion) to 138.6 trillion lire (\$95 billion).

Bleary-eyed ministers sustained through the night on cigarettes and sandwiches said 27 trillion lire (\$18 billion) of the deficit reduction would come from spending cuts and the remainder from increased non-tax revenue.

Media magnate Berlusconi has pinned his credibility on the measures.

He has called the budget "tough but fair" and a signal to international investors that his centre-right government, elected in March on pledges to put the brakes on runaway spending, is serious about structural reform.

Trade unions are particularly angry at government plans to reform the pensions system, one of the most generous and indebted in Europe, and save up to five trillion lire (\$3.3 billion) on next year's retirement benefit bill.

Cuts of a further 6.3 trillion lire (\$4 billion) are planned in the health sector.

Union leaders turned down a government compromise at a meeting with Mr. Berlusconi and key ministers. Wildcat protests against the budget hit several cities in northern Italy within hours of the cabinet meeting.

In Milan, workers from car giant Fiat's Alfa Romeo factory at Arese blocked a motorway, while employees of a Pirelli tyre factory closed a main road out of the city.

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Chinese athletes get red flag welcome in Hiroshima

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AFP) — China's athletes were given a red flag welcome at Hiroshima Wednesday while their leaders continued to press for the cancellation of a contested visit by the Taiwan vice-prime minister (see separate story).

Around 200 Chinese students based in Japan cheered and waved the national flag to greet the main contingent of athletes expected to dominate the Asian Games which start here Sunday.

They presented bouquets and hugged some of the country's 40 world champions in swimming, weightlifting and other sports.

China ended doubts about its participation Tuesday

when a foreign ministry spokesman said there would be no boycott.

But the government has kept up protests about the planned visit by Taiwanese vice premier Hsu Li-Teh. And on arriving with the athletes, Wei Jizhong, secretary general of the Chinese Olympic Committee, said the campaign against the Taiwanese would go on.

"We are going to continue to negotiate with the Japanese government concerning Hsu's presence here," Wei told reporters.

A planload of Taiwan athletes and officials arrived at Hiroshima airport at the same time as their Chinese rivals and they defended

Hsu's visit.

Chang Fung-Shu, head of the Taiwan Olympic Committee and the nationalist island's delegation leader, said: "As a member of the Olympic Council of Asia it is Taiwan's duty and right to participate in the Asian Games and China is not entitled to protest about anything."

Hsu is expected in Hiroshima Saturday.

China wants to clean up image

Meanwhile, Chinese sports officials acknowledged Wednesday the country did have a drug problem but that they were determined to weed out the cheats.

"China firmly opposes the use of drugs by our athletes. Once they are found we will handle the cases strictly and relentlessly and hold their leaders responsible for it," Yuan Weimin said after flying in with more than half the team of 570 athletes for the Asian Games.

Wei admitted the problem arose at a regional level where competition for local grants awarded to successful athletes was so fierce.

"We are tightening controls at both regional and national levels," he added.

Yuan, vice-minister of China's sports commission, is overseeing the campaign as chairman of the anti-doping committee which next month

hopes to sign an agreement with the Australian Sports Drug Agency which has an internationally recognised anti-doping programme.

Yuan made his name in sport in 1984 by coaching the Chinese women's volleyball team to the World Cup, world championship and Olympic gold medal in successive years.

Ma Junren, whose unorthodox training methods were greeted with skepticism by an unbelieving world when two of his women runners broke these world records in an astonishing week last year, said on Tuesday: "Improvement in athletics can only rely on science and proper goal-orientated training."

International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) officials arrived unannounced in Beijing Tuesday to test world champions Wang Junxia and Qu Yunxia.

They have come through all previous tests unblemished.

Most athletics coaches believe the turtle blood and elixir Ma feeds his athletes has only a placebo effect.

And Canada's Angela Chalmers admitted last month she had been too quick to accuse the Chinese of drug-taking after finishing fifth in the world championship 1,500m won by Liu Dong in Stuttgart, Germany.

Jordanian delegation leaves for Hiroshima

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian delegation to the 12th Asian Games due to start Sunday left Amman for Hiroshima Wednesday.

The 22-member delegation will participate in five sports at the games — athletics, taekwondo, karate, shooting and equestrian competitions.

Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, who will participate in the games' equestrian championships, will also represent Jordan at the meetings of the Olympic Council of Asia which will convene on the sidelines of the games. The meetings will also be attended by Secretary General of the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) Muwaffaq Al Fawwaz.

The Jordanian delegation includes five administrators, five coaches and 13 athletes.

Dr. Fawwaz said in earlier statements that he was hopeful that the Jordanian teams would achieve good results in the games.

He noted that the JOC has extended every possible support to these teams,

spending more than JD 30,000 on training camps held abroad.

Meanwhile, the physician accompanying the delegation, Khaled Hamed, said all the delegation members were in good condition for participation, except for one suffering from a minor inflammation. Identifying this member only as a karate player, Dr. Hamed said this athlete will still be able to participate in the games.

Secretary General of the Ministry of Youth Majed Quteishat, who saw the delegation off the JOC headquarters in Amman, urged the athletes to do their utmost to achieve good results in the two-week event, in which a record of 8,000 athletes representing 42 countries will participate.

Jordan's best showing in the Asian Games was in the 1986 Seoul Games when the basketball team, which is not participating now, came fourth and the taekwondo team players won three silver and one bronze to place Jordan fourth in the standings.

In 1990 Jordan did not take part in the games which then were hosted by China.

Japan wins tussle with China — for now

BEIJING (AFP) — A row over an invitation to Taiwanese officials to attend the Asian Games has sparked the first post-World War II clash between China and Japan.

Diplomats said Japan emerged the victor in a squabble that superficially was about sport but in reality was rooted in the resentments and ambitions harboured by Asia's two traditional rivals.

The dispute was ignited after Japan invited VIPs from Taiwan, which China de-

spises as a renegade province, to attend the ceremonial opening of the Games in Hiroshima Sunday.

Weeks of agitation by China succeeding in scuppering the attendance of Taiwanese President Lee Teng-bui. But Japan stood firm in its invitation to Taiwanese Prime Minister Hsu Li-Teh, even in the face of threatened Chinese boycott that would have reduced the prestigious Games to a shambles.

"China's campaign on the Taiwan question was too outrageous to be effective," a

western diplomat said.

"By asking the Japanese to buckle completely, the Chinese ultimately triggered a nationalist response which, for the first time, showed Japan could be firm towards its powerful neighbour," he said.

Japanese diplomats in Tokyo said they were dumbfounded that China should be fixated with torpedoing Hsu's visit after it humiliated Lee.

"If the Japanese had given way, they would have suffered a crippling blow to their

diplomatic prestige and exposed their own vulnerability towards Beijing," one said.

The Beijing diplomat agreed: "The Japanese are rather worried by what they see as China's rising influence and arrogance, reflected in increasing displays of nationalist pique, especially over Taiwan."

"I think we have just seen the first skirmish in a longer-term rivalry and nationalist competitiveness between the region's two major powers," he added, however, there was little choice for the

Chinese other than to call off the threat of a boycott. China is hoping to host the Olympic Games and the World Cup, and can ill-afford a damaging tantrum of this kind.

After this loss of face, China is sure to retaliate, diplomats said. That was the ominous message Tuesday from Politburo member Li Tieying, who said Japan's policy had caused "serious political troubles" and "the problem is not yet over."

One Beijing source said the Chinese were in a weak position to lash out economi-

cally, as they needed Japanese government loans and inward investment.

This left the option of diplomatic reprisals, such as behind-the-scenes moves by China to block Japan's bid for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, which was formally announced in New York Tuesday by Japanese Foreign Minister Yobei Kono.

"But the Japanese reply is that Japan also has its thumb on a Chinese pressure-point, the Chinese application to rejoin GATT," the diplomatic source said.

NHL commissioner appears ready to accept delay in start of season

TORONTO (AP) — National Hockey League (NHL) Commissioner Gary Bettman seems resigned to the fact that the start of the season will be postponed. Players are not giving him any reason to think otherwise.

Bettman gave the players' union a new proposal during eight hours of negotiations Tuesday, but union boss Bob Goodenow described it as "unacceptable."

"We still have a lot of work to do and I am getting concerned that time is getting short," said Bettman before he headed back to New York to await a call from Goodenow to find out whether talks will resume.

"As time marches on I will be more and more concerned. We have some wide rivers to cross. Are they so wide and so deep that they are incapable of being crossed? I hope not and I think not but the more time we spend together and the less progress we make, my level of concern rises. It is not impossible, but I do not want to hold out too much optimism."

Bettman has said he will decide Friday whether to postpone the start of the season, which is scheduled for Saturday.

The NHL's new proposal deals with a tax plan to help finance small-market teams. Goodenow called it a variation on an old theme.

Los Angeles Kings defenceman Marty McSorley warned that the players are ready and willing to stay out the whole season if owners do not budge on the issue of

First baseball, then hockey, now problems in basketball?

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The head of the U.S. National Basketball Association (NBA) Players' Union says he would not be surprised if the league stages a lockout because of the salary cap. And the players would be prepared to stage "alternative" games.

There is no current labour contract in the NBA, and owners reportedly are considering a lockout if none is reached by the end of November. They want to make the league's salary cap less flexible, a move opposed by the players.

Charles Grantham, head of the players' union, said Tuesday the current labour standoffs in Major League

Baseball and the National Hockey League (NHL) are a result of the climate of owners believing salary caps are a "panacea for their ills."

"It's contagious, with three or four sports going through it at the same time with the salary cap," he said, claiming owners want salary caps despite the fact that professional sports are expanding domestically and beginning to make inroads into vast global expansion.

"Is there a want for the salary cap, or is there a need for the salary cap?" Grantham, in Los Angeles for meetings, said by telephone. "When you start looking at that kind of environment, in football,

baseball, hockey and basketball, it doesn't surprise me that owners would be floating the rumour of a potential lockout."

"Our discussions with our player reps clearly made them aware of this possibility some time ago... I would not be surprised if a lockout were to occur, based on their behaviour at this point."

"...If they lock the players out, I don't think we would have much difficulty putting on alternative games."

Grantham doesn't believe there would be any lack of demand for such games, noting basketball is more popular internationally than baseball, hockey or football.

taxing salaries.

"We're prepared to shut it down," he said, in reference to the season.

Players interviewed at exhibition game sites were disenchanted by the recent developments.

"One person (Bettman) has taken the bull by the horns," said Kings' centre Wayne Gretzky. "I think he has backed himself into a corner by saying there will be no hockey on Saturday. It is very disappointing."

"It's tough to anticipate what will happen Saturday,

but right now we're a little disappointed," said goal tender John Vanbiesbroek, team representative for the Florida Panthers. "It doesn't look like much progress. We put together a lucrative package to answer their concerns about the lower-market teams and they didn't like it."

The previous contract expired Sept. 15, 1993. Chances of a settlement soon appear all but hopeless.

"We understand where we are on the big issues and we may well be there are some fundamental disagreements

on how to approach some of those issues," Bettman said. "If we both acknowledge the same problem, there may be two or more schools of thought on how to approach it. And those are the gaps we are trying to bridge."

Goodenow said it's becoming clearer to players that Bettman's ultimate goal is to cap salaries despite what the commissioner says.

"The real focal point now is a system that really acts as a cap on salaries, especially for the top payroll team in the league," Goodenow said.

Banned sprinter Krabbe prepares for comeback

BONN (R) — Katrin Krabbe, banned two years for doping, has set her heart on a comeback and will start serious training next month, her adviser said Wednesday.

The former double world champion, who now earns a living by running a sports shop in Neubrandenburg, her drab East German hometown, plans to begin preparations in France.

Adviser Thorsten Heuser said Krabbe sued the German Athletics Association (DLV) and the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) last month for damages of up to four million marks (\$2.5 million).

Krabbe is also asking the court for an immediate end to the suspension, imposed by the IAAF in August 1993, after she and teammates Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr admitted taking the banned drug clenbuterol in July 1992.

"We are optimistic about the outcome of the court case otherwise we wouldn't have filed a suit," said Heuser.

Derr and Breuer, the 1991 world 400 metres silver medalist, will join Krabbe in southern France for the training session scheduled for the middle or end of October.

"Krabbe has been keeping fit but of course it's not high-performance training," said Heuser. "Now she wants to know how she could fare at a high level."

But Krabbe, 100 and 200 metres champion in 1991, is unlikely to run in the near future unless the court approves an early reversal of the ban which officially ends in August 1995.



Katrin Krabbe

Krabbe lodged her damages claim Aug. 12 in Munich, where the DLV is registered. No date for the hearing has been set.

"She is claiming a mini-

mum of one million marks (\$640,000) but her total demand is four million," Heuser said. "But the major issue is not the financial one, it's whether the ban is legal or not."

Krabbe and her teammates have argued that the suspension is illegal under German law and would be regarded as too long by a civil court.

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Ravenelli hits five for Juventus of Italy

European soccer roundup

Fulton said he was only ac-

Fallon already has one of the worst disciplinary records in racing.

Striker Tony Castagne opened his European goal account for the French side with two goals, and Jean

... 26th minute, the second

deficit against Russians
Rotor Volgograd with an in-
sured 3-0 home win.

Bordeaux's Christophe Dugarry (L) evades Norwegian Torgeir Bjarnan during the UEFA Cup Lillestrom-Bordeaux match Tuesday at Oslo, Bordeaux, winner of the first leg 3-1, won the second leg 2-0 (goals from Laurent Fournier and Zinedine) and thus qualified for the next round (AFP photo)

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Fatal attack on tourists triggers exodus from Egypt

HURGHADA, Egypt (Agencies) — Foreign tourists in this Red Sea resort clamored to leave Wednesday after a suspected Muslim militant gunman killed two Egyptians and a German tourist and wounded two other people.

A man with an assault rifle opened fire on the busy Al Dahar market Tuesday evening, killing the three as well as seriously wounding another German tourist and the mother of one of the Egyptians who died, officials said.

The assailant fled in a pickup truck driven by an accomplice, witnesses added. Shortly afterwards suspected Islamic militants also machine-gunned a train heading up the Nile Valley from the capital Cairo, wounding two Egyptian passengers.

The dead German tourist was identified as 27-year-old Alexander Mölks of Berlin. He had told his guide Monday that he preferred to stay in Hurgada because he was afraid to go to the ancient Nile city of Luxor, which is in an area where there have been many militant attacks, a guide named Reda said.

It was the first such attack at Hurgada, which lies 550 kilometers southeast of Cairo in a sparsely populated desert region, since Islamic militants launched a violent anti-government campaign in March 1992.

The killing, which came a month after a Spanish teenager was killed in an attack along the Nile, threatened to undermine Egypt's campaigns to revive the flagging tourism industry during a previous lull in violence.

"This attack will certainly have an effect on tourism," one tour company executive said.

"This morning tourists at the scene or who were at the hotel where the Germans stayed were demanding to leave," a travel agent here added.

"Not many have heard the news, but we are very depressed because it will certainly hit (Hurgada's) tourism," he said.

Hurgada streets were deserted Tuesday night. At the Shadwan Golden Beach Hotel, where the Germans had been staying, "an Italian tourist who witnessed the attack was crying in the lobby," said the agent.

Police who cordoned off the resort say at least 20 people were arrested after the attack, and seized a machine gun and a revolver in a house near the scene of the killing.

According to security sources, top police officers were taking part in a massive search for members of Al Gamaa Al Islamiya, the main Islamic radical group, who maintain hideouts in mountains and sugar cane fields in southern Egypt.

Al Gamaa was considered the main suspect in the killing. But there was no claim of responsibility.

Immediately after Tuesday's shootings, police closed all roads out of Hurgada to try to seize the attackers. Police said they found a sub-machine gun, an Italian pistol, bullets and a face mask thrown away in a small street near the attack scene.

Germany had no immediate plans to change its travel advisory for Germans visiting Egypt, which warns of possible danger in the Assiut area, the main southern base of the radicals.

Until now, most of the extremist attacks have been in the south or in Cairo. Egypt's tourist business — particularly at ancient temples in the south — has been devastated by the radicals' campaign. But the tourism to the Red Sea beaches was not hit as hard.

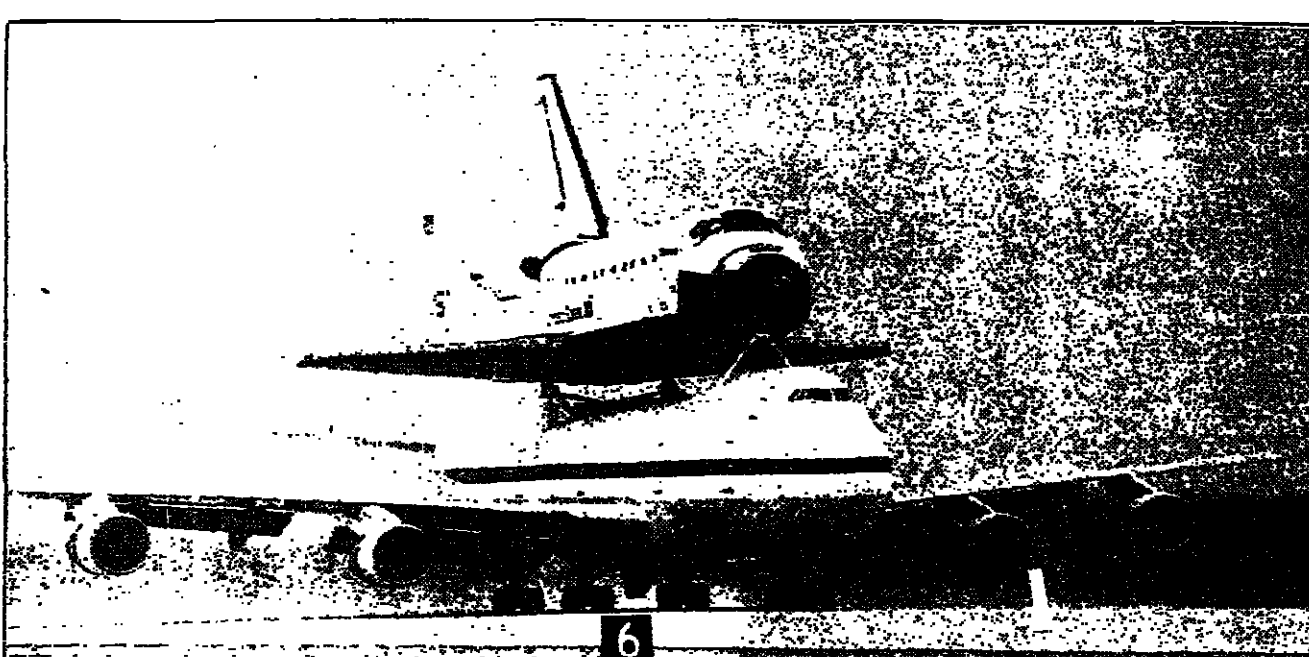
The gunman also killed Sabar Munaf Abdul Samad, an employee in a bus company, and Waleed Mahmoud Al Gaafari, 20, and Waleed Gaafari's mother, the authorities said.

Markus Matthe, 26, also of Berlin and a friend of the dead man, was wounded in the stomach but "seems out of danger," a German embassy official told AFP.

Mr. Matthe, accompanied by a friend, was flown by military plane early Wednesday morning to the Maadi armed forces hospital in Cairo.

The attack on the train in which two Egyptian passengers were injured occurred around 11:00 p.m. (2000 GMT) in the Mallawi region 300 kilometers south of the capital on the line from Cairo to Aswan.

Security forces combed the fields on each side of the line but the attackers managed to escape, police said.



SAFE LANDING: The space shuttle Discovery is returned to Kennedy Space Centre atop a Boeing 747 carrier aircraft after being forced to land in California due to poor conditions at the Florida site. The Discovery will be demated from the 747 and rolled to the orbiter processing facility to be prepared for its next mission now scheduled for February 1995 (AFP photo)

Debate on Election Law is conservative, tackles tricky issues with diplomacy

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Presentations on the first day of a conference on "Current Trends in Electoral Systems" on Wednesday primarily dealt with issues outside Jordan and approached Jordanian electoral concerns diplomatically and evasively.

Some questions posed indicated determination on the part of some of those in attendance to discuss issues in a matter-of-fact manner.

In general, the points regarding the electoral system in Jordan remained in tune with those raised by Taher Masri, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, in his address at the opening of the conference Tuesday.

When applying electoral laws, Mr. Masri said, it is important to recognize the characteristics, conditions and social structures of the nation. There are, however, general principles and criteria which apply to all democracies.

Participants of the conference reiterated these points

and upheld that other electoral systems cannot be imported directly but may be benefited from.

Mr. Masri pinpointed shortcomings in the Jordanian electoral law. The electoral process has become unnecessarily complicated resulting in a reduced number of voters at the last election in 1993. The polling rate also decreased because of voters' uncertainty of the constituency to which they belonged, he said.

This point was also raised by others who found a need for new electoral districts to be drawn better suited to the one-man, one-vote system introduced last year.

Mr. Masri also said there was a need to create an independent body to replace the Ministry of Interior as an organizer and supervisor of the electoral process.

During the conference this was regularly repeated with stress placed upon the need to restore credibility to the electoral process.

Concern about the transportation of ballots from the polling station to another

location was raised, suggesting that such action arouses suspicion and should not occur.

Dr. Mohammad Mahasneh of Mu'ta University said that the one-man, one-vote law necessitates the division of seats according to population density in constituencies. Demographic changes require changes in the number of constituencies, he added.

In response to questions on the participation of women in elections, Dr. Mahasneh said that their participation was essential, but the introduction of a quota for women in Parliament would not be to the benefit of women.

Calls were also heard for greater representation and participation of all eligible voters and participants suggested the introduction of a quota for minority groups.

In reply Dr. Bernard Owen, a speaker from the Centre for Comparative Electoral Studies, France, said that in the West there was no quota for minority groups and they were not deprived of democratic rights.

The debate considered obligatory voting and the imposition of penalties, should a vote not be cast; a situation which exists in Singapore and Belgium. The consensus of opinion opposed the practice which appears to obstruct true democracy.

Regarding issues of tribal and clan affiliation which manifested itself in last November's elections in Jordan, Dr. Owen replied that similar affiliations were also present in France. He drew an analogy from trade union members who vote in accordance with their unions' political sentiments. In 1978, 70 per cent of trade union members voted in favour of the communists.

Although it is known that the electoral law is to be reconsidered when parliament is reconvened, there have been no revelations on the action to be taken. Conference participants displayed strong hopes that the issues discussed Wednesday and those to be raised today will be seriously considered when the electoral law is reviewed.

Syrians, Israelis attend tourism meeting

CAIRO (Agencies) — Syrian and Israeli tourism officials sat together here Wednesday for the first time since the Middle East peace process was launched, at a meeting aimed at boosting tourism in the region.

Organizers said eight Syrian travel agents attended the seminar arranged by the multilateral commission on economic cooperation, which has otherwise been boycotted by Syria and Lebanon.

Syrian officials insist that no normalisation with Israel or regional cooperation involving the Jewish state is possible until Israeli troops withdraw from the Golan Heights.

The Syrians and Israelis were joined by travel experts from 10 other countries in the region, including Lebanon, for the two-day meeting.

"We are proud to announce Syria's participation," said Earlene Causey, head of the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA).

The meeting was a "new decisive step on the path to Middle East peace," she added. The U.S. State Department had proposed the gathering.

In Damascus, Syria's travel agency association denied that it had joined the meeting.

The association is "not participating and will not participate in the meeting" of the ASTA, a statement published by the official Syrian news agency SANA said.

"This is in line with the position of Syria which boycotts the multilateral negotiations until tangible progress is achieved in the bilateral talks" with Israel, SANA said.

The United States and Russia are co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process launched at the Madrid conference in October 1991.

Bob Whitley, head of the U.S. tour operators' union, said the meeting was aimed at drawing up plans for regional cooperation in tourism and promoting economic development.

According to the Brussels-based World Travel and Tourism Council, investment in tourism-related sectors of the economy is set to increase almost five-fold over the next 10 years, rising from \$60 billion in 1992 to \$270 billion by the year 2005.

The meeting came a day after a gunman shot dead two Egyptians and a German tourist at Egypt's popular Red Sea resort of Hurgada (see separate story).

Egyptian Tourism Minister Mamdouh al Beltagi travelled to Israel on Wednesday via Jordan to try to promote regional holidays.

An initial news conference here was dominated by questions about safety following Tuesday's attack blamed on Islamic radicals at a resort of Hurgada.

Whitley praised Egypt's efforts against radicals who have carried out a campaign to overthrow the secular government for 2 1/2 years.

Mr. Baram was expected to sign an agreement in principle with Egypt on Wednesday. It will include establishing a resort zone along the Red Sea and joint marketing in Islamic countries as well as the United States.

The Egyptian minister's entourage included six Egyptian businessmen examining possible joint ventures with Israel.

"We will examine the possibilities of increasing our share of regional tourism," Mr. Beltagi said.

While in Amman, he invited Jordan to join Egypt, Israel and Turkey in the East Mediterranean Tourism Association set up a year ago to promote the region and improve its infrastructure.

Jordan and Israel have opened a common crossing point for tourists after signing a declaration in Washington in July ending a 46-year state of hostility between them.

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Jordan and Israel have opened a common crossing point for tourists after signing a declaration in Washington in July ending a 46-year state of hostility between them.

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Adwan rejects Israeli complaint over 'meeting'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Tourism Minister Mohammad Al Adwan on Wednesday rejected Israeli complaints that he failed to turn up for a "trilateral" meeting at the King Hussein Bridge with his counterparts from Egypt and Israel saying no such encounter was planned in the first place.

"There was no plan for such a meeting to start with," Dr. Adwan said. "Therefore there was no question of my attending it either," he told the Jordan Times.

Israeli Tourism Minister Uzi Baram, in comments after receiving his Egyptian counterpart Mamdouh Beltagi at the King Hussein Bridge, asserted earlier that Dr. Adwan did not turn up for the purported meeting at the bridge because Jordan did not want to upset the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho

by attending a meeting at the bridge, the main crossing point between the occupied West Bank and Jordan.

Mr. Beltagi crossed to the West Bank after two days of talks in Amman on a Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in tourism.

Dr. Adwan told the Jordan Times: "The Egyptian minister's visit to Jordan and his talks here were strictly in a bilateral context and had to do with Jordanian-Egyptian relations and cooperation in tourism. There was never any idea for a joint meeting with the Israeli minister, and we did not feel any necessity for such a meeting either."

Dr. Adwan met with Mr. Baram in August on the fringes of bilateral Jordanian-Israeli negotiations at an Israeli hotel on the shores of the Dead Sea. Agreement was reached during the meeting on cooperation to attract American tourists to Jordan and Israel in joint package

tours. According to Mr. Baram, the Jordanian minister's absence at the purportedly planned meeting at the bridge on Wednesday came because Jordan considered the area as Palestinian territory.

He said Dr. Adwan had sent him a message saying: "I cannot cross the (King Hussein) Bridge now because it is part of the Palestinian authority and I don't want to create problems with the Palestinian authority. I am ready to meet you even tomorrow in Aqaba."

Only Doron, spokeswoman for Mr. Baram, said: "First the Jordanians told us there will be a meeting, then they said it will be only a handshake and all of a sudden Dr. Adwan came to the upper bridge but he did not cross."

Dr. Adwan said that he had always planned to accompany Mr. Beltagi to the bridge to see him off from Jordan.

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Republicans sure of wins, pledge agenda

WASHINGTON (R) — More than 300 Republican candidates for the House of Representatives marched on the Capitol Tuesday confident they will make huge election gains and possibly regain control of Congress for the first time since 1954.

At a flag-waving rally, each signed a 10-point "contract with America" spelling out their agenda for the first 100 days if Republicans recapture a congressional majority from President Bill Clinton's Democrats in the Nov. 8 voting.

All 435 seats in the House, where Democrats have a 256-178 majority with one independent, are up for renewal along with 35 of 100 seats in the Senate, now 56-44 Democratic.

Republicans last controlled both the House of Representatives and Senate simultaneously in 1954. Democrats have run both Houses since except for a Republican Senate majority from 1980 to 1985.

Gathered on the Capitol steps, the Republican incumbents and challengers accused Democrats of being out of touch with people and in office too long.

Political analysts say the Republicans are being helped by a strong anti-incumbent "throw them out" mood in the country and the low popularity ratings of Mr. Clinton.

Republican Party Chairman Haley Barbour said on ABC News earlier Tuesday that Republicans would gain the 40 seats needed for a House of Representatives majority if the election were held today — although he conceded the odds were against such an upheaval.

He said the seven-seat gain needed for Senate control is "uphill but not nearly as uphill as it was back in January."

Mr. Barbour called the political climate the most favourable for Republicans since he entered politics in 1968.

The second-ranking Republican representative, Newt Gingrich of Georgia, predicted that all 10 items of their "contract" agenda would be voted on in the first 100 days of the new congress that starts Jan. 3.

The contract is basically a package of conservative Republican proposals that have been pushed for years including a balanced budget amendment to the constitution, tax cuts, congressional term limits, spending cuts, a strong defence, tough-on-crime plans, welfare reforms, legal reforms and liberalised social security welfare measures.

House Speaker Thomas Foley, a Democrat whose own reelection in Washington state is questionable according to polls, dismissed the Republican contract for legislation.

"I think this package is a great mistake," Mr. Foley said. "I don't think anything the Republicans say on the (Capitol) steps is going to play well with the American people."

But Republican leader Bob Michel of Illinois, who is retiring from Congress, said at the rally he smelled a big Republican victory in the offing.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole said last week, when Senate candidates signed a similar "contract" for the next Congress, that he expected Republicans to win more than the seven seats needed for a majority.

Mr. Dole was Senate majority leader for a six-year period when Republicans held the Senate during most of Ronald Reagan's presidency in the 1980s.

U.S., Russia to dismantle nukes ahead of schedule

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton announced Wednesday that the United States and Russia will begin dismantling their nuclear warheads ahead of schedule.

Mr. Clinton, speaking at a joint news conference with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, said the dismantling would begin as soon as the START I agreement took effect and the START II agreement was ratified.

"We will start immediately removing our warheads as opposed to the nine years allowed in the treaty," Mr. Clinton said.

The START II treaty, which was signed in 1992, allows a nine-year delay to start dismantling warheads.

Mr. Clinton also said that U.S.-Russia relations were moving ahead fast, and that the two countries were making the world safer for all.

The press conference wound up a two-day summit here which ended with the signing of a statement on the Partnership for Economic Progress statement and a document on boosting security of Russian nuclear stockpiles.

The security initiative, launched after Germany seized stolen plutonium from a flight from Moscow this summer, was to be coupled with U.S. funds to build a storage facility for nuclear material and a new agreement on exchanging data on nuclear stockpiles.

Mr. Yeltsin said Russia would stop selling weapons and other military hardware to Iran once a Soviet-era contract with Tehran runs out.

Mr. Yeltsin, speaking at the joint news conference, said: "We cannot but satisfy the terms of an agreement reached in 1988 between Moscow and Iran for arms supplies."

"But no other new contracts, no other new supplies, no other goods will be shipped," once the contract is terminated, he said.

Mr. Yeltsin said the decision to stop delivering arms supplies to Iran was linked to scrapping COCOM, the cold war body that monitored sensitive Western technology exports to the East.

Mr. Clinton, however, downplayed Mr. Yeltsin's remarks, stating that while the

leaders had come to a "conceptual agreement on how we would proceed," the matter had yet to be fully worked out by teams of experts.

"We cannot say that it is resolved because for both of us the details are very important," Mr. Clinton said.

Russia is believed to have pocketed about \$1 billion a year in sales of submarines and military weaponry to Iran.

Mr. Yeltsin opposed a Bosnia arms embargo compromise favoured by Mr. Clinton, but the main focus as they rounded out the summit was a commitment to boost trade and investment.

Mr. Yeltsin waxed upbeat about U.S.-Russian relations even before the economic talks began, and in the process slapped down Russian nationalists who long for a return to the days of the Soviet empire when cold war hostility prevailed.

At a reception in the Library of Congress, Mr. Yeltsin said there were "people in my country, though few people, who say that our relationship with the United States is transitory and an era of confrontation will return."

But I would like to tell you that we've never fought the United States, and I believe I can say as president of Russia, that we will never fight the United States in the future."

As the applause subsided, he said Moscow and Washington would "focus on building a world of decency and welfare for both of us."

Earlier, talking with reporters after meeting legislators on Capitol Hill, Mr. Yeltsin said his government was still firmly opposed to lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia Muslims.

That put him at odds with Mr. Clinton, who intends to seek a U.N. resolution sending the embargo if the Bosnian Serbs do not accept an international peace plan for Bosnia by Oct. 15.

Mr. Clinton, however, plans to ask that implementation of his proposal be delayed until spring, after Bosnian Muslims said they would support a six-month delay in lifting the embargo as long as there was a pledge the arms ban would be lifted.

"Now the Bosnian Muslims think they have to wait six months (for the embargo

to be lifted)," Mr. Yeltsin commented, "Let's wait for six months and then perhaps we can decide once and for all that this should not be done."

President Clinton, who greeted President Yeltsin with a handshake and a hug Tuesday, said they would discuss their differences in a "climate of warm peace, not cold war."

Mr. Yeltsin responded that neither America nor Russia is an easy country to deal with but said that makes it "all the more exciting" to join hands in partnership.

The dialogue between the Russian and American presidents has begun in earnest, Mr. Yeltsin proclaimed.

At the ceremonies on the White House lawn, Mr. Clinton stressed areas of increasing U.S.-Russian cooperation and praised Mr. Yeltsin.

He declared the two countries were "growing closer together, replacing suspicion and fear with trust and cooperation."

"Today we meet not as adversaries, but as partners in the quest for a more prosperous and a more peaceful planet."

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COLUMN

MEPs to share seats in Strasbourg

STRASBOURG (AFP) — Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) will have to share seats after January 1995 as the hemicycle, or debating chamber, here will then be too small to accommodate all European deputies, speaker Klaus Haensch said Tuesday.

On Jan. 1 1995 four new states — Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden — are set to join the EU. When that happens, the number of MEPs at the Strasbourg parliament will increase from 567 to 641, too many to fit into the hemicycle. "As in the Bundestag or the House of Commons, there will be more deputies than seats," said Haensch during a press conference here, in an allusion to the lower house of the German and British parliaments. However, he added: "MEPs are here to vote, they do not need to sit down." "Deputies should not think their seat has been reserved... if they do not attend (parliamentary sittings)," said the speaker. According to Haensch, MEPs are opposed to the idea of converting public viewing galleries in the hemicycle into seats for deputies as they do not want to see a situation with "upstairs and downstairs deputies." Shortage of space, an odd problem for an assembly with an exceptionally high rate of absenteeism, will hopefully be resolved when work on a new parliament building is completed here, theoretically by the end of 1997.

U.K. reports drop in crime

LONDON (R) — The British government reported the largest drop in crime in 40 years but said violent crimes, such as assault and rape, rose six per cent. Official figures showed the number of reported overall crimes fell by 5.5 per cent in England and Wales in the year ending June 30, the first time in 10 years that crime has not increased. Violent crimes were up 6.1 per cent. Burglaries, thefts and vehicle crimes all decreased — the latter good news in a country that tops world tables for car thefts. Most crimes, 93 per cent, were against property. But violence against the person was up by 5.9 per cent, accounting for most of all violent crime. Sexual offences were up 12.6 per cent and robbery 4.6 per cent. Murders remain relatively uncommon — the number fell by three per cent to 668. England and Wales have a population of 51 million. The number of rapes increased by 15 per cent to 5,000, but the Home Office (Interior Ministry) said this was partly because women were reporting rapes more. Crime has been an important political issue in Britain, but the mixed figures offered little ammunition either to the government or to its critics. Opinion polls show that rising crime is the single greatest concern of Britons who are angered by the failure of the ruling conservatives to stem it in their 15 years in office. Earlier, this month Prime Minister John Major called for a national effort "to build an anti-yob culture."

Bottomley in smacking row

LONDON (AFP) — British Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley has plunged into a storm after admitting that she smacked her own children and backing the right of childminders to administer corporal punishment. Mrs. Bottomley was reported to have "horrified" delegates at a child care conference in London by saying Tuesday that because she was a mother she found it difficult to outlaw smacking by registered childminders. In a statement issued later in the day through the Department of Health she reinforced her views: "When my children were younger, there were occasions when I had to give them a smack. I agree that parents should smack their children if they want to, and if a childminder is looking after a child and is well known and trusted by the parents, and the parents are willing for her to administer a mild smack to their children, they should be allowed to do so."

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